

Britain's 1st Country Music Newspaper

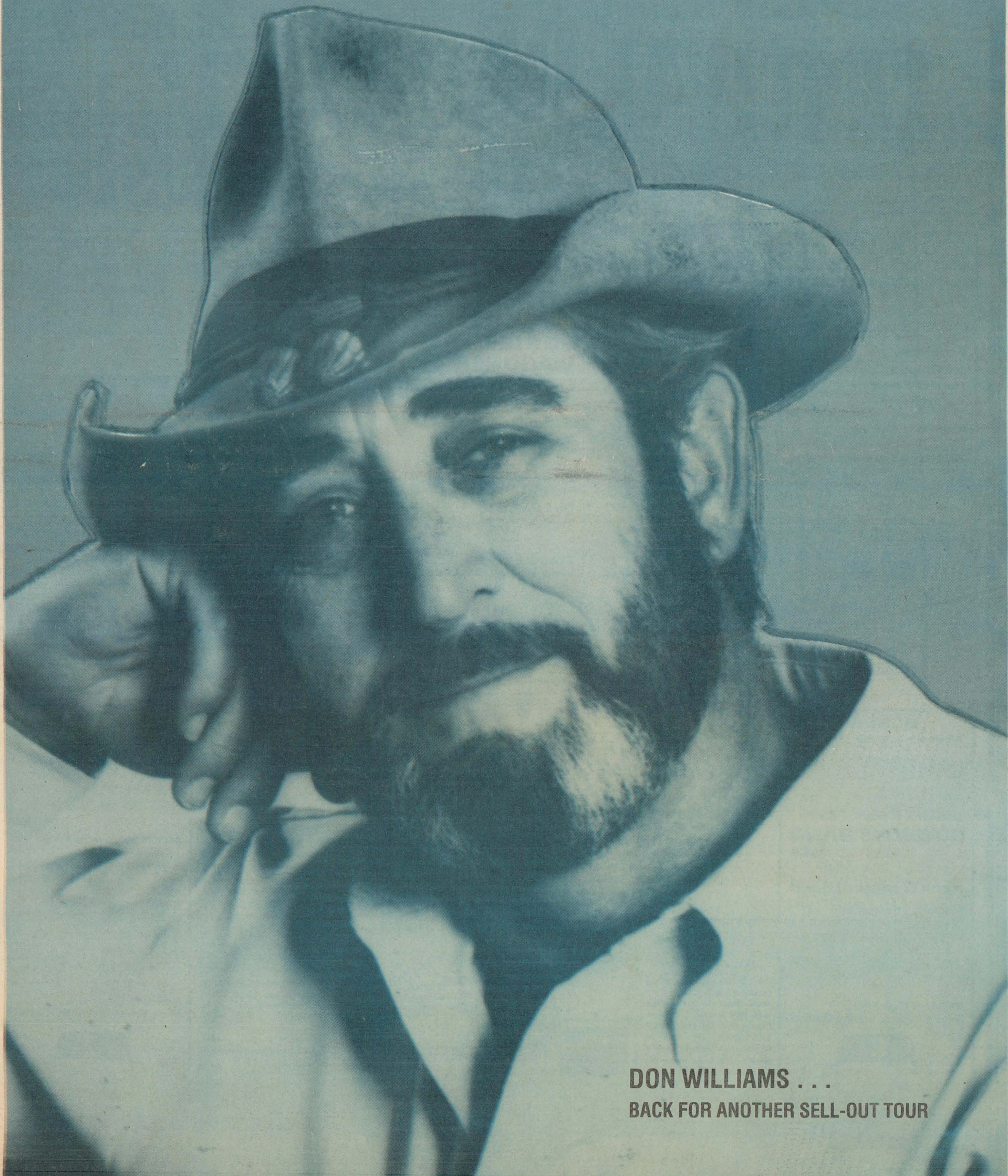
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COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

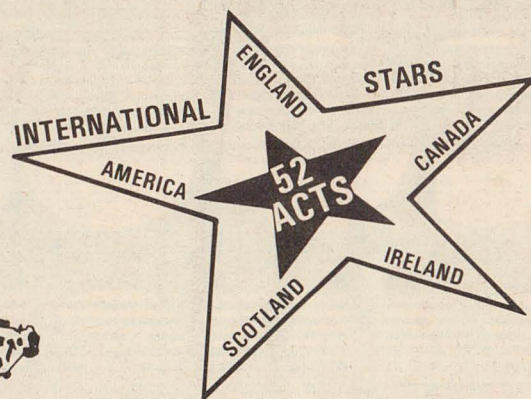
55p

MONTHLY

MAY 1984
Vol. VIII No. 6



DON WILLIAMS . . .
BACK FOR ANOTHER SELL-OUT TOUR



The 5th Annual

Peterborough

FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY MUSIC

August Bank Holiday Spectacular

SUPPORTED BY
PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCILResident Comperes:
Snuffy Garrett & Mick Smith
all four days

Sponsored by Mercedes-Benz

FRIDAY

Evening 7.30 pm 24th Aug.

TOMMY CASH

U.S.A.

backed by Country Fever and Brian Golbey

Poacher

Jon Derek & Country Fever
The Duffy Brothers
Warren Reeves &
Clarksburg Express
Pinkertons Colours
Kay Brothers Flying Circus
Pinewood CountyCompere: Terry McKenna
Hereward Radio

SATURDAY

Afternoon 2.00 pm 25th Aug.

Evening 7.30 pm 25th Aug.

HANK LOCKLIN

U.S.A.

backed by Country Fever and Brian Golbey

Susan McCann &
The Storytellers

(Ireland)

Ben Rees Country Band
Ruby Rendall & Cimarron
(Scotland)Hamilton's Power
Maria O'Brien & Flikka
Snoops CountyCompere:
Wally Whyton, BBC Radio 2PORTER
WAGONERand his all Girl Band
U.S.A.

Sandi Hart (Scotland)

The Grant Carson Show
U.S.A.
Billie Davies & her Band
The Country Jays
Dark Hollow
Tumbleweed ConnectionCompere:
Wally Whyton, BBC Radio 2

SUNDAY

Afternoon 2.00 pm 26th Aug.

FOSTER & ALLEN

IRELAND

Roly Daniels, Patrice
& Tulsa (Ireland)Eileen King & The Kingsmen
(Ireland)
Yellowstone Pinic Band
West Virginia
The Chuck Fowler Band
Mountain Davy
& The Cajun KidCompere: Stan Laundon
BBC Radio Cleveland

SUNDAY

Evening 7.30 pm 26th Aug.

BARBARA
FAIRCHILD

U.S.A.

backed by Country Fever and Brian Golbey

Kenny Johnson &
NorthwindRose Marie (Ireland)
Barbary Coast
Scots Country Comfort
(Scotland)
CargoCompere: Stan Laundon
BBC Radio Cleveland

MONDAY

Afternoon 2.00 pm 27th Aug.

HANK WILLIAMS'
ORIGINAL
DRIFTING
COWBOYS BAND

U.S.A.

Hank Wangford Band

Emerald (Ireland)
Kelvin Henderson
Terasita & Interstate (Scotland)
Campbells Country
Peter Mason & his BandResident Comperes:
Mick Smith & Snuffy Garrett

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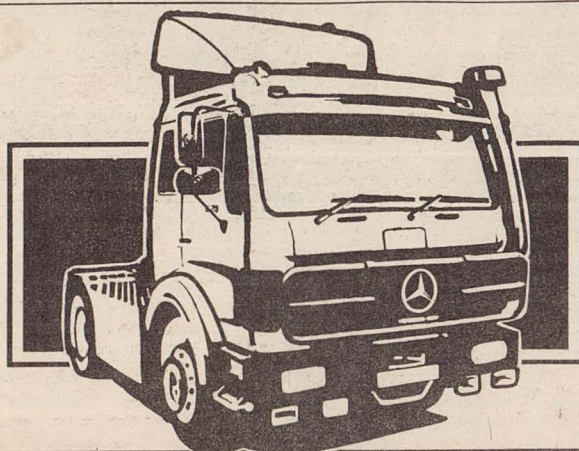


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Souvenir Programme (voucher)
£1.50.

MONDAY

Evening 7.30 pm 27th Aug.

RONNIE
PROPHET
and Glory Anne
Carriere

CANADA

backed by Country Fever

Raymond Froggatt
& his BandGordie West
The Everglades
Indigo Lady
Station Break
Don Leather & CindyResident Comperes:
Mick Smith & Snuffy Garrett

May 1984

Britain's 1st Country Music Newspaper

COUNTRY MUSIC Round Up

Britain's Foremost Country Music Journal
Established 1976

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COE'S TRAGEDY

● A BUS tragedy injured two members of David Allan Coe's Tennessee Hat Band as well as his bodyguard recently. The group was on its way from Tulsa to an engagement in Salt Lake City when the wreck occurred. Injured were Michael 'Rodeo' Barton, Coe's rhythm guitarist (who was at the wheel of the crew bus when its brakes failed), drummer Harry C Wilkerson, and Coe's bodyguard David C Strickland.

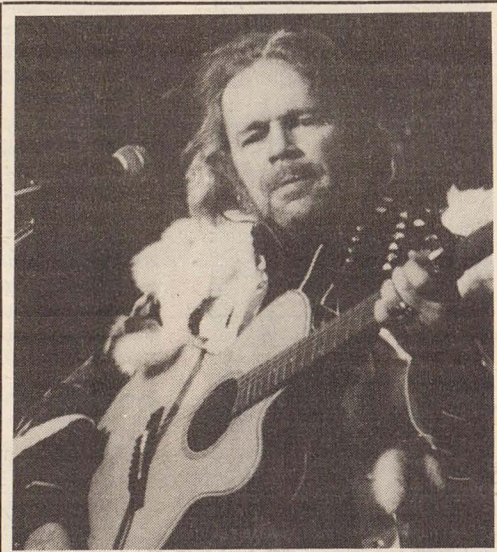
A report in 'Billboard' magazine states Barton's injuries were the most serious. Every bone in his legs and his ribs were crushed, and he required seven hours of surgery following the tragedy. Wilkerson broke his wrist when he was thrown from the bus upon impact. Strickland was also thrown out of the bus through the windshield before being run over. Doctors removed a ruptured spleen and set his leg.

Apparently Coe and his entourage — which includes three buses and two tractor-trailer trucks — were driving through the Wyoming mountains to their next date when the brakes on the road crew bus failed. The vehicle failed to navigate an interstate off-ramp and ploughed into the rear of a semi-truck. Ironically, the brakes had failed once before and had recently been repaired.

Coe is reported to have said after the accident that he had woken Barton up and suggested that they take over the driving, since they were more familiar with the buses and the terrain was difficult. Barton insisted on taking the crew bus so that Coe could have the newer bus. He said, 'You drive your bus, boss, and I'll drive the crew bus.' 'That's the bus that used to be mine, and he used to drive it all the time,' said a shaken Coe, who had to pull his friend from the wreckage. 'He was fresh.

He'd only been driving forty-five minutes when this happened.'

Our sources say Barton realised he had no brakes as he attempted to exit the interstate. The bus crashed into the tractor-trailer while Barton tried desperately to downshift through the gears. Barton's new wife of two weeks flew immediately to Laramie, Wyo., to be with her injured husband at bedside. Coe had served as best man at their wedding.



DON WILLIAMS TOUR

● DON WILLIAMS returns to the UK in May for a two week tour, dates of which are as follows: May 9 Brighton Centre; 10 & 11 Nottingham Royal Centre; 12 Birmingham Odeon; 13 Manchester Apollo; 15 Liverpool Empire; 16 Halifax Civic Theatre; 17 Ipswich Gaumont; 19 Cardiff St David's Hall; 20 Cornwall Coliseum; 22 London Royal Albert



Hall. Support is provided by American singer Jo Anne Steele plus Frank Jennings' Syndicate. Tickets for all shows are on sale at the venues concerned, with the exception of the Royal Albert Hall show. Tickets for this are priced £12.80; £10.80; £6.80 and £5.30 from The Kruger Organisation, PO Box 130 (DW Box Office), Hove, East Sussex, BN3 6QU.

NEW RONNIE PROPHET ALBUM

● BRITAIN is a second home for Ronnie Prophet. His fans here will be delighted to learn that he has just released a new album, 'I'm Gonna Love Him Out Of You' (Audiograph AG 7793) which Frank Delaney, editor of 'Country Music News' in Ottawa, Canada, describes as 'Prophet's best album to date. There are a lot of positive things happening on this album, but nothing better than the title tune which has all the right ingredients to make it a hit.'

Other tracks which come in for mention are 'Without You' (a powerful ballad); 'We Found Paradise' (a touch of Southern gospel); 'I Came To Love You' and 'Southern Women'. Two Wembley favourites are on the album: 'Smooth Operator' and 'A Phone Call From Allison'. Ronnie has also dipped into his song Tony Prophet's repertoire for 'Fort Worth Feather Bed'.

Meanwhile Canadian Glory-Anne Carriere and Ronnie Prophet plan to record a duet album soon in Nashville, which should be available prior to their welcome appearance at the Peterborough Country Festival on 27 August '84.



NAME FOR PORTER WAGONER'S ALL GIRL BAND

● THE Music Country Radio Network held a competition recently to choose a name for Porter Wagoner's new all-girl band. Six listeners sent in the winning entry — 'The Right Combination' — so a draw was held, the winner being brought to Nashville for dinner with Porter and a week-end at the Opryland Hotel. Co-incidentally, the winner was Nelle Yendel, and together with her sister Ruth Weir under the name of the Poe Sisters, was a performer on the Grand Ole Opry in the early 1940's!! Now residing in Mountain View, Arkansas, it has been thirty-eight years since the sisters visited Nashville. Some 12,000 entries were received for the 'Name The Band' contest — with listeners sending in packages with up to fifty names in them! 'The Right Combination' was a song performed as a duet by Porter Wagoner with Dolly Parton in the early '70's.

LITTLE GINNY TOUR DATES

● When Little Ginny returns from two weeks appearances at the Nashville Sun in Zurich, Switzerland her UK dates will read:—

Tues 15 May Regal Theatre, Stowmarket; Sun 10 June Southport Theatre, Merseyside; Fri 15 June Key Theatre, Peterboro; Fri 22 June Palace Newark

CMRU's TEAM COVERS THE BIG SHOWS

HELLO, GOODBYE

● FOLLOWING a seven year stint with the Mervyn Conn office organising Conn's annual Wembley Country Music Festival and associated tours and festivals in Europe, Rob Zuradzki moves into the world of venue management taking over Boston's Haven Theatre.

He has already booked the Slim Whitman show into the Haven on 28 April. Slim's last visit to the area was more than five years ago, where he played to a capacity audience at Peterborough ABC Theatre, and Zuradzki was then Slim Whitman's tour director.

Anyone wishing to contact Rob can phone (0205) 62961.

● CYNTHIA LEU has been named as successor to Jana Talbot as Manager of European Operations for the Country Music Association. She can be contacted at the CMA's European office at: Suite 3, 52 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RP.



COUNTRY CORNER

● WEA have released a new country compilation, 'Cross Country', a seventeen-track set designed to introduce country music to a wider audience.

Released to coincide with the Wembley Country Festival, the album features tracks by three of the starring acts — Glen Campbell, Emmylou Harris and Frizzell and West — plus tracks from Crystal Gayle, Johnny Lee, Gail Davies, T G Sheppard, Rodney Crowell, The Band, Jerry Jeff Walker, Little Feat and more. A new Emmylou Harris, 'On The Radio' is also out on Warners.

CANADA? — NO

● IT'S chilly at the Border: David Frizzell and Shelly West vow they will never perform again in Canada after recent alleged harassment while crossing the border. According to the duo's spokesperson, the singers were detained by customs agents en route to Hamilton, Ontario.

Apparently the agents took dogs onto their two buses and conducted a strip-search of one of Frizzell's background singers, Donna Toadvine. West's bus was held for four hours. Frizzell's for two. As a result of the incident, both performers are reported as saying, it's the last time they will be seen on Canadian stages.

GEORGE HAMILTON IV

● GEORGE HAMILTON IV, who has just completed what he describes as mainly a 'radio/TV promotional tour' to Britain returns as the guest singer at Dr Billy Graham's 'Mission: England' Crusade in Bristol (May 12-19). George IV lives near Charlotte, North Carolina, which is Dr Graham's birthplace. The crusade will mark George IV's second christian music appearance in Britain. Last August he appeared at the Greenbelt Festival which was staged at Knebworth House near Stevenage.

Meanwhile plans are in hand for yet another mammoth two-month tour of Britain in September and October. By then his new album, produced by Pete Drake in Nashville for First Generation Records should be available.

DON GIBSON MARGO SMITH IRELAND IN JUNE

● DON GIBSON and Margo Smith will be performing at a festival in Cork, Ireland, on the 1, 2, and 3 June. The Cork Festival is in its second year and this will be a first appearance in that country by Margo Smith.

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May 1984

ROLL UP, ROLL UP, COME AND SEE THE JED FORD MEDICINE SHOW AT THE FIFTH PETERBOROUGH FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY MUSIC

● ALWAYS the illustrious showman, but when Jed Ford holds a Press Conference it is like watching a re-incarnated Old West ('quack' medicine) salesman at work, and a veritable Niagara of superlatives flow off his tongue as he extols the wonders of the 1984 Peterborough Country Music Festival.

● There were times when the electricity in the room flickered off but Jed didn't even pause. In fact, you would have more chance of stopping one of the giant Mercedes-Benz trucks that were in evidence to reinforce the Company's interest and again sponsoring the event, than you would of stopping Jed once he is in full flow! Eloquent though this man (who was obviously inoculated with an LP needle at birth) is, the festival's track record says so much more than he will ever be able to; and that's about the highest praise I can give it!

THE CONCEPT

● The idea is a carnival/mini-American State fair, wrapped around a solid core of country music, but should appeal to a much larger audience than country music can currently attract in this country, and the growth of the festival over the past five years shows it works.

● All praise must go to Jed Ford and his astute associate Wendy Lane for the enthusiasm and hard work they have put in to establish this annual festival, for make no mistake it is now based on a very sound foundation. The reasons for my saying that are obvious when you note the following:—

- (a) Its central location in the country;
- (b) A beautiful site;
- (c) A now very enthusiastic city council backing them; and
- (d) Good commercial sponsorship.

These are undoubtedly the jewels firmly set in their promotional crown. The only possible thorn that might prickle is one still occasionally hears about unrealistic fees paid to the British acts who appear within their giant canvas arena. I hope the organisers are able to squash such comment fully this year for everyone's ongoing benefit!

MAIN SHOWS

● A quick glance through the advertised line-up will show you that this year will see six well known American acts topping excellent British bills, which should encourage good early ticket reservations.

● Friday evening: Better known as the brother of Johnny, but always a star in his own right, Tommy Cash closes the show that includes two of Britain's best acts, Poacher and the Duffy Brothers.



● Jed Ford



● Wendy Lane

● Saturday afternoon: Sees the return of one of last year's 'Big Top' successes, Hank Locklin. This eight act show also includes such well known names as Susan McCann from Ireland and fast upcoming act Ruby Rendall and Cimarron from Scotland.

● Saturday evening: Brings forth the spectacle of Porter Wagoner and his new six-piece all girl band. Also from the States comes the Grant Carson Show supported by a host of other acts.

● Sunday afternoon: Looks like a nice day for the Irish with Foster & Allen headlining plus Roly Daniels, Patrice, Tulsa and Eileen King all from across the Irish sea, and they're joined by more quite excellent English acts.

● Sunday evening: Barbara Fairchild becomes the first American female act to headline at this festival. She will close what on paper looks like a very strong bill!

● Monday afternoon: Finds the spectacle of Hank Williams' Original Drifting Cowboys topping a bill that includes the Hank Wangford Band — the mind boggles.

● Monday evening: The whole 1984 festival will be closed by the country humour of Ronnie Prophet (well at least the toad should be happy by the River Nene). Notable appearances with Ronnie will be Glory Anne Carriere and Raymond Froggat amongst others.

COUNTRY FAN FRINGE ACTIVITIES



● Jed Ford

FAMILY FAYRE

● The list seems to be endless: Punch & Judy, then there's circus acts, hypnotists, escapologists, lumberjack axe racing teams, karate and martial arts teams, American baseball, the Amazing Man with Bionic Eyes, Teepee of Fire. You can even challenge Geoff Capes at pulling a Mercedes-Benz truck and maybe win £500.

Ox Roast/Dance: This takes place after the fireworks in the Main Western Bar. Tickets are £5 each, and are limited to six hundred. Entertainment from Rose Marie, Kenny Johnson and rockabilly exponent Chuck Fowler.

Snooker/Wrestling: Very prestigious events involving these sports should be taking place on the festival site over the four days.

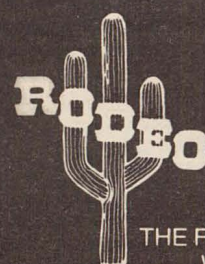
CONCLUSION

Rocky-Top

Country Music Club Presents at the
Brimington Tavern, Nr Chesterfield
ALL DAY FESTIVAL
on 30 June (Saturday)
STARTING 12 NOON
JOHNNY MARKS RICKI SYLVA
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SPILL THE BEANS PETE JONES OUTFIT
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For information Tel: (0246) 812460

● This has to be a value for money event. I have undoubtedly left something out but my advice is book your accommodation early. The Riverside camping on site is again available. Ring (0733) 241789 for further details and tell them you read about it in 'Round Up' first.

Mick Green



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All British Country Music artists are eligible, regardless of professional status. i.e. semi-pro, fully-pro or name artists. The goal, however, will be to coach all contracted artists up to full professional status, with U.K. and international exposure.

All recording times will be so arranged to avoid interfering with gigs etc.

All recorded artists will receive full royalty payments for record sales and airplay.

ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO PHONE TERRY MUNDY ON:—
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GIBSON TEAMS WITH EARL SCRUGGS

● WORLD famous instrument manufacturers, Gibson, recently announced that they have teamed up with one of the great legends of the country music industry per the most recognised banjo virtuoso of all time, Earl Scruggs. The first product to bear fruit from this exclusive association is a brand new instrument, the Gibson Earl Scruggs Model Banjo, designed to the master's exact specifications in both materials and craftsmanship. The new banjo is set to be launched in mid 1984.

Gibson, Director of Research and Development, Bruce Bolen, explained 'of all the banjo masters to come out of the USA, who has been more responsible for bringing banjo music out of the mountains and hollows and into the music mainstream around the world, than Earl Scruggs? We, at Gibson, are extremely pleased to be working with a true banjo legend in the production of this instrument'.

Billboard

Country Album Review

Billboard

Chart reproduced courtesy of Billboard Publication Inc.

APRIL 14, 1984.

This Week	Last Week	Weeks on Chart	ARTIST Title, Label & Number (Dist. Label)	This Week	Last Week	Weeks on Chart	ARTIST Title, Label & Number (Dist. Label)
1	1	9	ALABAMA Roll On, RCA AHL1-4939 RCA	38	41	21	EMMYLOU HARRIS White Shoes, Warner Bros. 23961 WEA
2	3	21	THE OAK RIDGE BOYS Deliver, MCA 5455 MCA	39	42	7	THE JUDDS The Judds - Wynonna & Naomi, RCA/Curb MHL1-8515 (RCA)
3	4	25	RICKY SKAGGS Don't Cheat In Our Hometown, Sugar Hill/Epic FE-38954 CBS	40	40	21	SHELLY WEST Red Hot, Viva 23983 WEA
4	2	23	GEORGE STRAIT Right Or Wrong, MCA 5450 MCA	41	46	48	WILLIE NELSON WITH WAYLON JENNINGS Take It To The Limit, Columbia FC 38562 CBS
5	8	39	EARL THOMAS CONLEY Don't Make It Easy For Me, RCA AHL1-4713 RCA	42	44	21	JOHNNY LEE Greatest Hits, Full Moon/Warner Bros. 23967 WEA
6	5	21	WILLIE NELSON Without A Song, Columbia FC-39110 CBS	43	50	80	RICKY SKAGGS ● Highways And Heartaches, Epic FE 37996 CBS
7	6	55	LEE GREENWOOD Somebody's Gonna Love You, MCA 5403 MCA	44	47	22	KENNY ROGERS Twenty Greatest Hits, Liberty LV-51152 CAP
8	7	12	CHARLY McCLAIN The Woman In Me, Epic FE-38979 CBS	45	39	26	MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHEY The Heart Never Lies, Liberty LT-51150 CAP
9	12	25	HANK WILLIAMS, JR. Man Of Steel, Warner/Curb 23924 WEA	46	45	10	GENE WATSON Little By Little, MCA 5440 MCA
10	10	12	THE STATLER BROTHERS Today, Mercury 812-184-1 POL	47	48	5	LARRY WILLOUGHBY Building Bridges Atlantic America 9012 (WEA)
11	15	24	JANIE FRICKE Love Lies, Columbia FC-38730 CBS	48	49	109	ALABAMA ▲ Mountain Music, RCA AHL1-4229 RCA
12	14	24	DEBORAH ALLEN Cheat The Night, RCA MHL1-8514 RCA	49	54	4	DON WILLIAMS The Best Of Don Williams Vol. 3 MCA MCA 5465
13	9	30	KENNY ROGERS Eyes That See In The Dark, RCA AFL1-4697 RCA	50	37	13	JOE STAMPLEY Memory Lane, Epic FE-38964 CBS
14	13	31	MERLE HAGGARD That's The Way Love Goes, Epic FE-38815 CBS	51	43	149	RICKY SKAGGS ● Waitin' For The Sun To Shine, Epic FE 37193 CBS
15	18	18	EXILE Exile, Epic B6E-39154 CBS	52	53	23	JOE WATERS Harvest Moon, New Colony NC-831 IND
16	17	9	DOLLY PARTON The Great Pretender, RCA AHL1-4940 RCA	53	51	17	STEVE WARINER Midnight Fire, RCA AHL1-4859 RCA
17	11	21	TOM JONES Don't Let Our Dreams Die Young, Mercury 814-448-1 POL	54	55	134	WILLIE NELSON ▲ Greatest Hits, Columbia KC 237542 CBS
18	19	23	CRYSTAL GAYLE Cape The Songbird, Warner Bros. 23958 WEA	55	56	72	DOLLY PARTON Dolly's Greatest Hits, RCA AHL1-4422 RCA
19	16	28	GARY MORRIS Why Lady Why, Warner Bros. 23738 WEA	56	57	61	GEORGE STRAIT Strait From The Heart, MCA 5320 MCA
20	21	22	T.G. SHEPPARD Slow Burn, Warner/Curb 23911 WEA	57	58	161	ALABAMA ▲ Feels So Right, RCA AHL1-3930 RCA
21	25	30	THE KENDALLS Movin' Train, Mercury 812-779-1 POL	58	52	23	GEORGE JONES Jone Country, Epic FE-38978 CBS
22	20	56	ALABAMA ▲ The Closer You Get, RCA AHL1-4663 RCA	59	NEW ENTRY		PINKARD & BOWDEN Writers In Disguise, Warner Bros. 25057 WEA
23	23	78	HANK WILLIAMS JR. ● Hank Williams Jr.'s Greatest Hits, Elektra/Curb 60193 WEA	60	61	46	T.G. SHEPPARD T.G. Sheppard's Greatest Hits, Warner/Curb 23841 WEA
24	27	19	MICKEY GILLEY You've Really Got A Hold On Me, Epic FE-39000 CBS	61	62	201	ALABAMA ▲ My Home's In Alabama, RCA AHL1-3644 RCA
25	22	30	JOHN CONLEE In My Eyes, MCA 5434 MCA	62	69	4	DAVID WILLS New Beginnings RCA MHL 1-8516 MCA
26	28	63	MERLE HAGGARD AND WILLIE NELSON ● Poncho And Lefty, Epic FE 37958 CBS	63	63	30	LEE GREENWOOD Inside Out, MCA 5304 MCA
27	30	8	JOHNNY LEE Til The Bars Burn Down, Warner Bros. 25056 WEA	64	NEW ENTRY		LEON EVERETTE Don't What I Feel, RCA MHL1-8518 RCA
28	24	28	EDDIE RABBITT Greatest Hits - Volume II, Warner Bros. 23925 WEA	65	65	2	MAC DAVIS Soft Talk Casablanca 818-131-1 (Pol)
29	26	24	JOHN ANDERSON All The People Are Talkin', Warner Bros. 23912 WEA	66	59	20	MERLE HAGGARD The Epic Collection (Recorded Live), Epic FE-39159 CBS
30	34	108	WILLIE NELSON ▲ Always On My Mind, Columbia FC 37951 CBS	67	67	32	CRYSTAL GAYLE Crystal Gayle's Greatest Hits, Columbia FC-38803 CBS
31	32	24	LARRY GATLIN & THE GATLIN BROTHERS BAND Greatest Hits Volume II, Columbia FC-38923 CBS	68	70	42	CONWAY TWITTY Lost In The Feeling, Warner Bros. 23869 WEA
32	31	20	JIM GLASER The Man In The Mirror, Noble Vision NV-2001 IND	69	72	18	B.J. THOMAS The Great American Dream, Cleveland International/Columbia FC-39111 CBS
33	29	50	JOHN CONLEE John Conlee's Greatest Hits, MCA 5406 MCA	70	66	42	THE WHITES Old Familiar Feeling, Warner/Curb 23872 WEA
34	33	8	DAVID FRIZZELL & SHELLY WEST In Session, Viva 23907 WEA	71	60	7	TONY JOE WHITE Dangerous, Columbia FC-38817 (CBS)
35	36	14	BOXCAR WILLIE Not The Man I Used To Be, Main Street MS-9309 MCA	72	68	27	ANNE MURRAY A Little Good News, Capitol ST12301 CAP
36	35	13	ROGER WHITTAKER Alltime Heart Touching Favorites, Main Street MS-9306 MCA	73	71	6	BILL MONROE Bill Monroe & Friends, MCA 5435 MCA
37	38	310	WILLIE NELSON ▲ Stardust, Columbia JC 35305 CBS	74	73	182	KENNY ROGERS ▲ Greatest Hits, Liberty LOO 1072 CAP
				75	64	3	MEL McDaniel Mel McDaniel with Oklahoma Wind Capitol ST-12326 CAP

● Bullets are awarded to those products demonstrating the greatest sales gains this week (Prime Movers).
● Recording Industry Assn. of America seal for sales of 500,000 units (seal indicated by dot). ▲ Recording
Industry Assn. of America seal for sales of 1,000,000 units (seal indicated by triangle).

ROUND UP — Album of the month

MAINES BROS BAND PANHANDLE DANCER TEXAS SOUL TSA 102682

CRAZY WIND; TEXAS TEARS; RENO AND ME;
WHEN MY BLUE MOON TURNS TO GOLD;
EASY TO LOVE; B J'S BOUNCE; HONEY
DON'T; LET THE HARD TIMES ROLL;
FLATLAND FARMER; BREAK THE FALL;
PANHANDLE DANCER

Following their two earlier albums
'Amarillo Highway' and 'Hub City
Moan', this is another fine mix of
old classics and new songs. The
first two albums were released in
the UK on the now sadly defunct
Country Roads label, but I'm afraid
this one is not so readily available.

What a fine bunch of boys the band
are — superb steel from Lloyd
Maines, vocals from Kenny Maines,
Donnie Maines on drums, Steve
Maines on guitar, the Brownlow
Brothers on bass and piano,
Richard Bowden on mandolin and
fiddle, Jack Bowden on banjo,
accordion by Ponti Bone, plus
various other pickers and singers.

There are two tracks I don't care
for: 'Easy To Love' and 'Break The
Fall'. Both have string
arrangements and seem too close
to MOR for me. The first three
songs on side one are nothing short
of magic especially 'Reno and Me',
a brilliant road song by Kevin
Walsh and John Hadley. Kevin also
wrote 'Crazy Wind', 'Let The Hard
Times Roll' and the title song. Terry
Allens' 'Texas Tears' and 'Flatland
Farmer' are excellent songs and the
instrumental 'B J's Bounce' is a
treat for swing fans. Two old songs
get a new lease of life, 'When My
Blue Moon' and especially Carl
Perkins' 'Honey Don't' which is a
kind of Bob Wills meets Bill Haley
job — really powerful stuff.

This is a difficult album to get but
spare no effort and you won't regret
it.

Noel Casey

DOLLY PARTON THE GREAT PRETENDER RCA AHL1-4940

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME; I WALK THE
LINE; TURN, TURN, TURN (TO EVERYTHING
THERE IS A SEASON); DOWNTOWN; WE
HAD IT ALL

Dolly Parton often falls between
two stools. When she veers
towards pop she encounters
problems from her country fans,
'but when I put out the kind of
songs that the fans say they want,
they don't buy'. There is little doubt
that the country fans are going to
be upset by this album, but it's still
a dynamic LP from a versatile
singer and I enjoyed every track.

Dolly does go country on Johnny
Cash's 'I Walk The Line', Bob
Lind's 'Elusive Butterfly' and Troy
Seals' 'We Had It All', although
the Nashville roots are so heavily
disguised in the modern

arrangements as to be hardly
recognised. Strangely the
numbers to get the most
sympathetic treatment are the
folk/rock evergreens 'Turn, Turn,
Turn' (a hit for both the Byrds and
the original Seekers) and the Trini
Lopez smash 'We'll Sing In The
Sunshine'.

Terry Keeler

O O O O O

GRAM PARSONS THE EARLY YEARS SUNDOWN SDLP 1010

I MAY BE RIGHT; BIG COUNTRY; ZAH'S
BLUES; MAY DON'T YOU WEEP; BELLS OF
RHYMNEY

GOIN' AWAY; DON'T YOU WANT TO GO; THEY
SHALL GO DOWN; ON MY JOURNEY HOME;
SURFIN' ANNY; OH DIDN'T THEY CRUCIFY
MY LORD

The legacy of Gram Parsons' work
has only really begun to be
appreciated in the ten years since
his death, and the focus has always
really been on his early seventies
Warner Brothers material. Perhaps
the first exception to this rule was
the 1983 release on the Sundown
label of Gram Parsons and the
Fallen Angels live in concert.
However, the musical output of
Gram Parsons goes back much
further than this and the Sundown
label tell us it is very pleased to be
able to present archive material
from his very early days as a
musician.

This album features the artiste with
his original band The Shilos and the
first impression is of the clean cut
folk influence of the period. But the
recognisable GP vocal touch is
already there and helps make this
album an interesting document and
tribute to one of the originators of
country rock.

VARIOUS ARTISTES 20 COUNTRY CLASSICS EVEREST RECORDS CBR 1022

JUST SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW (DOLLY
PARTON & PORTER WAGONER); WHEN
YOU'RE HOT YOU'RE HOT (JERRY REED);
WOULD YOU HOLD IT AGAINST ME (DOTTIE
WEST); ANGELS DON'T LIE (JIM REEVES);
THEN YOU CAN TELL ME GOODBYE (EDDY
ARNOLD); PLEASE HELP ME I'M FALLING
(HANK LOCKLIN); THE COLD HARD FACTS
(PORTER WAGONER); I NEVER ONCE
STOPPED LOVING YOU (CONNIE SMITH);
BROWN-EYED HANDSOME MAN (WAYLON
JENNINGS); LONESOME NUMBER ONE (DON
GIBSON)

500 MILES FROM HOME (BOBBY BARE);
COAT OF MANY COLOURS (DOLLY PARTON);
AMOS MOSES (JERRY REED); BIG WIND
(PORTER WAGONER); THE END OF THE
WORLD (SKEETER DAVIS); THE TAKER
(WAYLON JENNINGS); MULE SKINNER
BLUES (DOLLY PARTON); I WON'T COME IN
WHILE HE'S THERE (JIM REEVES); BETTER
MOVE IT ON HOME (DOLLY PARTON &
PORTER WAGONER); THE COUNTRY HALL OF
FAME (HANK LOCKLIN)

Although much of the material on
this twenty-track compilation
album is dated, the novices would
never realise it. The selection and
the sequence have been so well
thought out that the songs come
across as fresh as though they had
just this month wafted out of
Nashville. There is something to
suit every country taste, and my
preference alighted on Dolly
Parton's 'Mule Skinner Blues'
where she embarks on some high-
ranging yodels, her duet with
Porter Wagoner on 'Just Someone
I Used To Know', and Bobby
Bare's classic '500 Miles'.

Terry Keeler

Billboard



MICKEY GILLEY & CHARLY McCLAIN—It Takes Believers, Epic FE 39292. Producer: Norro Wilson. This easy-listening package has an attractive sophistication about it: the music is sleek, never slushy, and even the most romantic numbers retain a sparkling edge and underlying conviction. Gilley and McClain are easily the most promising new country duo on the horizon.

GARY MORRIS—Faded Blue, Warner Bros. 25069-1. Producers: Jim Ed Norman, Gary Morris. There's nothing faded about this sterling production showcasing a vocalist whose talent is awesome. The songs are superior, ranging from emotional ballads to Eagles country-rock, and there's a nice textured edge that makes the harmonies shine.

ATLANTA—Pictures, MCA 5463. Producers: Milan Bogdan, Larry McBride. The lovely title cut accurately describes this debut album, a collection of strong and colorful songs that takes hue from the various singers in the nine-piece group. Harmonies are rich, the arrangements are pure, subtly shaded and appealing, and with three hit singles already to their credit, Atlanta has a first album that glows.

BARBARA MANDRELL—Clean Cut, MCA 5474. Producer: Tom Collins. Mandrell mixes adult contemporary with country pop with requisite dashes of sizzle and spunk. If her arrangements are often heavily orchestrated, she manages to infuse enough heat to carry them off; if there are no surprises, it's nonetheless a smooth, sleek package.

REBA McENTIRE—Just A Little Love, MCA 5475. Producer: Norro Wilson. Under Wilson's tutelage, McEntire unfortunately seems to have opted for the glib lyric and the big production over her former stark and soulful traditional sound.

JERRY LEE LEWIS—I Am What I Am, MCA 5478. Producer: Ron Chancey. If you can wade through all the chest-thumping and self-aggrandizing riffs Lewis so favors here, you'll find a lot of very moving performances, including such classic weepers as "Careless Hands," "Candy Kisses" and "Send Me The Pillow That You Dream On."

JOHNNY RODRIGUEZ—Foolin' With Fire, Epic FE 39172. Producer: Richie Albright. Another romantic package from the seasoned stylist. With a hard-edged voice powered by soft impulses, Rodriguez once more demonstrates that his voice is a love song's best friend.

MOE BANDY—Motel Matches, Columbia FC 39275. Producer: Blake Mevis. While much of the material here is dimly stereotyped, Bandy has a gift for tracking down the smallest gems of phrasing and truth, and making them shine like spotlights.

PETER ROWAN WITH THE RED HOT PICKERS—Sugar Hill 3733. Producers: Peter Rowan, Richard Greene, Hiroshi Asada. A reissue of mostly traditional bluegrass material, performed with confident, jazzy coolness.

SYLVIA—Surprise, RCA AHL1-4960. Producer: Tom Collins. In spite of the title, this is the customary (and reliably romantic) Sylvia, with a collection of lush ballads set to lush orchestration.

VINCE GILL—Turn Me Loose, RCA MHL1-8517. Producer: Emory L. Gordy Jr. Ex-Pure Prairie Leaguer Gill constructs here an utterly delightful gallery of sounds—ranging from authentically doleful country to nervously energetic rock.

Billboard

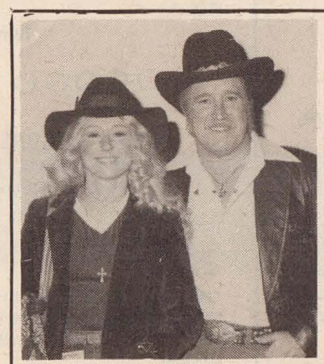
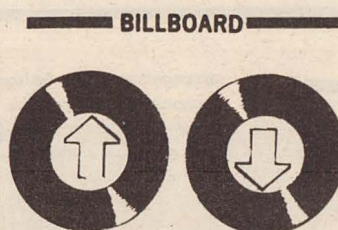
Country Singles Review

Billboard

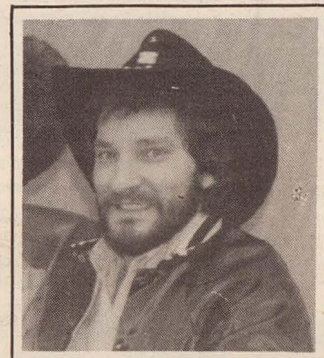
TOP THIRTY CHART

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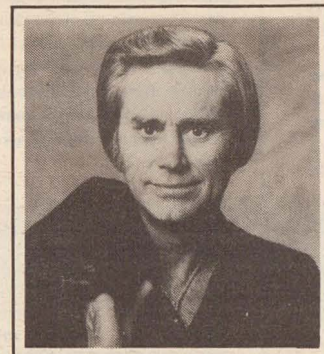
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE—Artist (Producer) Writer, Publisher, Licensee, Label & Number (Dist. Label)	WEEKS AT #1
1	3	14	THANK GOD FOR THE RADIO—The Kendalls B. Mevius M.D. Barnes R.I. Jones, Blue Lake, BMI, Mercury 818 056-7	1
2	4	12	I'VE BEEN WRONG BEFORE—Deborah Allen (R. Van Hoy) D. Allen, R. Van Hoy, D. Cook; Posey/Van Hoy/Unichappell/BMI/Cross Keys (Tree Group), ASCAP; RCA 13694	
3	5	11	THE YELLOW ROSE—Johnny Lee with Lane Brody (J. Bowen) J. Wilder/K. Welch, G. Nicholson; WB, ASCAP/Elektra-Asylum, BMI/Cross Keys (Tree Group), ASCAP; Full Moon/Warner Bros. 7-29375	
4	6	10	RIGHT OR WRONG—George Strait (R. Baker) A. Sizemore, H. Gillespie, P. Biese; Edwin H. Morris, ASCAP; MCA 52337	
5	8	9	HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR HEARTACHE—Barbara Mandrell (T. Collins) M. David, A.P. Jordan; Collins Court, ASCAP; MCA 52340	
6	9	9	SWEET COUNTRY MUSIC—Atlanta (M. Bogdan, L. McBride) D. Rowe, T. Dotson, J. Stevens, A. P. Carter; Texas Tunes/Hat Band/Dwain Rose/Peer, BMI; MCA 52336	
7	11	8	I GUESS IT NEVER HURTS TO HURT SOMETIMES—The Oak Ridge Boys (R. Chancey) R. VanWarmer, Terra Form/Fourth Floor, ASCAP; MCA 52342	
8	12	11	I COULD 'A HAD YOU—Leon Everett (B. Mevius) B&M Rice; April/Swallow Fork, ASCAP; RCA 13717	
9	7	12	WILL IT BE LOVE BY MORNING—Michael Martin Murphey (J.E. Norman) L. Anderson, F. Koller; Old Friends, BMI; Liberty 1514	
10	18	6	TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE LOVED BEFORE—Julio Iglesias & Willie Nelson (R. Perry) A. Hammond, H. David; April/Casa David, ASCAP; Columbia 38-04217	
11	14	12	LEFT SIDE OF THE BED—Mark Gray (B. Mopntgomery, S. Buckingham) M. Gray, B. Woods, S. Lemaire; Warner-Tamerlane/Daticabo/Tree (Tree Group), BMI; Columbia 38-04324	
12	13	9	MAKE MY DAY—T. G. Sheppard with Clint Eastwood (J.E. Norman) D. Blackwell; Peso/Wallet, BMI; Warner/Curb 7-29343	
13	17	9	CANDY MAN—Mickey Gilley & Charly McClain (N. Wilson) B. Ross, F. Neil; Unichappell, BMI; Epic 34-04368	
14	10	12	IF I COULD ONLY DANCE WITH YOU—Jim Glaser (D. Tolle) P. McManus; Music City, ASCAP; Noble Vision 104	
15	19	8	MAN OF STEEL—Hank Williams Jr. (J. Bowen, H. Williams Jr.) H. Williams Jr.; Bocephus, BMI; Warner/Curb 7-29382	
16	1	14	DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR ME—Earl Thomas Conley (N. Larkin, E.T. Conley) E.T. Conley, R. Scruggs; Blue Moon/April, ASCAP/Full Armor, BMI; RCA 13762	
17	21	8	I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR LOVE—Crystal Gayle (J. Bowen) J. Carbone; Sixty-Ninth Street, BMI; Warner Bros. 7-29356	
18	2	14	LET'S STOP TALKIN' ABOUT IT—Janie Fricke (B. Montgomery) R. Bourke, R. Van Hoy, D. Allen; Unichappell/Van Hoy/Posey, BMI/Chappell, ASCAP; Columbia 38-04317	
19	24	7	I MAY BE USED (BUT BABY I AIN'T USED UP)— Waylon Jennings (W. Jennings) B. McDill; Hall-Clement (Weik Group), BMI; RCA 13729	
20	25	8	I DREAM OF WOMEN LIKE YOU—Ronnie McDowell (B. Killen) T. Seals; W. B./Two Sons, ASCAP; Epic 34-04367	
21	28	6	AS LONG AS I'M ROCKIN' WITH YOU—John Conlee (B. Logan) K. Kane, B. Channel; Crosskeys (Tree Group)/Old Friends, ASCAP/BMI; MCA 52351	
22	26	8	IN THE MIDNIGHT HOUR—Razzy Bailey (N. Wilson, T. Brown) S. Cropper, W. Pickett; Irving/Cotillion, BMI; RCA 13718	
23	29	8	GOD MUST BE A COWBOY—Dan Seals (K. Lehnig) D. Seals; Pink Pig, BMI; Liberty 1515	
24	15	12	TOO LATE TO GO HOME—Johnny Rodriguez (R. Albright) L. Chera; Music City, ASCAP; Epic 34-04336	
25	32	8	BOYS LIKE YOU—Gail Davies (G. Davies) G. Davies, W. Igleheart; Little Chickadee, BMI/Black Note, ASCAP; Warner Bros. 7-29374	
26	20	11	SILENT PARTNERS—David Frizzell & Shelly West (S. Garrett, S. Dorff) T. Rocco, K. Chater, A. Roberts; Vogue, BMI/Bibo (Weik Group)/Chriswald/Hopi/MCA, ASCAP; Viva 7-29404	
27	16	16	YOU REALLY GOT A HOLD ON ME—Mickey Gilley (J.E. Norman) W. Robinson; Jobete, BMI; Epic 34-04269	
28	37	4	SOMEDAY WHEN THINGS ARE GOOD—Merle Haggard (Merle Haggard/Ray Baker) L. Williams, M. Haggard; Shade Tree Music, Inc. BMI; Epic 34-04402	
29	38	4	HONEY (OPEN THAT DOOR)—Ricky Skaggs (Ricky Skaggs) Mel Tillis; Cedarwood Publishing Co. Inc. BMI; Sugar Hill/Epic 34-04394	
30	39	5	MONA LISA LOST HER SMILE—David Allan Coe (B. Sherrill) J. Cunningham; Rocksmith/Lockhill-Selma, ASCAP, Columbia 38-04396	



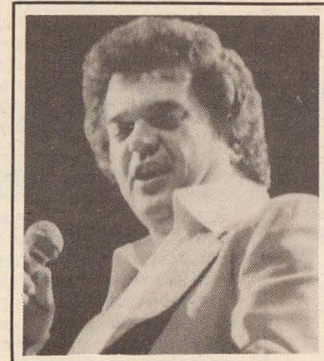
● The Kendalls



● Leon Everett



● George Jones



● Conway Twitty

KEEPING TRAX

ALABAMA—When We Make Love (3:36); producers: Harold Shedd, Alabama; writers: Troy Seals, Mentor Williams; publishers: Cavesson/Welbeck, ASCAP; Warner-Tamerlane, BMI. RCA PB-13763. A lingering, deliberate tribute to the heightening power of love.

B.J. THOMAS—The Whole World's In Love When You're Lonely (3:09); producer: Bob Montgomery; writers: D. Tyler, F. Knoblock; publishers: Unichappell/Intuit, BMI/Goodsport, ASCAP; Cleveland International 38-04431. Thomas sets this throbbingly paced dissection of loneliness to a distinct pop instrumental background.

JUDDS—Mama He's Crazy (3:11); producer: Brent Maher; writer: Kenny O'Dell; publisher: Kenny O'Dell, BMI; RCA PB-13772. This supremely harmonious mother-daughter team becomes the soul of youthful earnestness in an appraisal of love amazingly discovered.

KAREN BROOKS—Born To Love You (2:44); producer: Jim Ed Norman; writers: Charlie Black, Layng Martine Jr.; publishers: Chappell, ASCAP/Unichappell/Watch Hill, BMI; Warner Bros. 7-29302. Brooks' sparkling, assertive voice rings (to an almost calypso rhythm) in this happy epiphany of love.

BOXCAR WILLIE—Not On The Bottom Yet (2:48); producer: Pete Drake; writers: Lone Martin, Bobby Carraway; publisher: Miz Box, ASCAP; Main Street MS 93020 (c/o MCA). Boxcar makes his personal declaration of independence to a brisk, peppy instrumental backing.

JOHNNY CASH—That's The Truth (2:45); producer: Brian Ahern; writer: Paul Kennerly; publishers: Rondor, BMI; Columbia 38-04428. Haplessly, Cash narrates a wry account about finding out the truth about women.

KAREN TAYLOR-GOOD—Welcome To The World (1:17); producer: T. Sparks; writer: Karen Taylor-Good; publisher: Bil-Kar, SESAC; Mesa NSD/M-1116-C (c/o NSD, Nashville). Taylor-Good delivers a brief, buoyant soliloquy to her unborn child.

JOE WATERS—Rise Above It All (2:04); producer: not listed; writer: Joe Waters; publisher: Lantern Light, BMI; New Colony NC-6815. The mellow-voiced Waters delivers a peppy and upbeat message. Contact: (614) 663-4030.

CHARLY MCCLAIN—Band Of Gold (2:51); producer: Norro Wilson; writers: R. Dunbar, G. Wayne; publisher: Gold Forever, BMI; Epic 34-04423. The old hooks work just as well the second time around in this remake of Freda Payne's 1970 top 5 hit.

JERRY PUCKETT—How Can We Be Strangers Again (3:06); producer: Jerry Puckett; writers: G. Jackson, J. Puckett; publisher: Mighty Mississippi, BMI; Sun Belt SBR-840223-NSD. Passion clashes with domestic commitments here, and the sound is tragically convincing. Label based in Jackson, Miss.

EARL DANIEL HYDE—Music City Blues (3:31); producer: Phil Baugh; writer: Larry Bastian; publishers: Chablis/Fast Lane, BMI; Sound Factory S.F. 521. Hyde debuts with a listenable, husky voice and a fine, contemplative set of lyrics. Label based in Nashville.

CONWAY TWITTY—Somebody's Needin' Somebody (3:52); producers: Conway Twitty, Dee Henry, Jimmy Bowen; writer: Len Chera; publishers: Intersong/Ja-Len, ASCAP; Warner Bros. 7-29308. It's "The Lonely Guy" theme prevalent in today's alienated society, sensitively delivered in Twitty textures.

STATLER BROTHERS—Atlanta Blue (2:45); producer: Jerry Kennedy; writer: D. Reid; publisher: Statler Brothers, BMI; Mercury 818 700-7. The Statlers unleash their rumbling lows and tormented highs (in a galloping rhythm) to an old love remembered.

EXILE—I Don't Want To Be A Memory (3:38); producer: Buddy Killen; writers: J.P. Pennington, S. Lemaire; publishers: Pacific Island/Careers/Tree, BMI; Epic 34-04421. The strength of this act's powerful and stylish assault on the country charts makes it unlikely to be relegated to mere memory. This single showcases Exile's writing and instrumental strengths once again.

RAY CHARLES—Do I Ever Cross Your Mind (3:12); producer: Ray Charles; writers: M. Smotherman, B. Burnette; publishers: Songs of Koppelman/Seventh Son/Garbo/Dorsey, ASCAP; Columbia 38-04420. Charles poses the most poignant of questions in this bluesy country masterpiece.

DAVID FRIZZELL—Who Dat (3:07); producers: Snuff Garrett, Steve Dorff; writers: M. Brown, S. Dorff, S. Garrett; publishers: Peso/Wallet/Katsy, BMI; Viva 7-29332. Frizzell has forsaken his traditional country sound for what appears to be a minstrel routine.

BILLIE JO SPEARS—Midnight Love (3:19); producer: George Richey; writer: Buck Moore; publisher: First Lady, BMI; Parliament PA-1801-NSD. Spears absolutely exudes wounded rage—and at her gritty best—in this account of betrayal.

SISSY SPACEK—If You Could Only See Me Now (2:50); producer: Rodney Crowell; writer: Keith Sykes; publisher: Keith Sykes, BMI; Atlantic America 7-99773. Laid-back and acoustic.

GEORGE JONES—You've Still Got A Place In My Heart (3:11); producer: Billy Sherrill; writer: L. Payne; publisher: Fred Rose, BMI; Epic 34-04413. With a slow and hearty arrangement, the song finds Jones wryly relishing a past affair; the piano and harmonica parts add a hint of regret.

Recent U.K. Releases

Singles

Elvis Presley — Green Green Grass of Home/Release Me (And Let Me Love Again)/Solitaire — RCA 405

Mac Davis — Caroline Is Still In Georgia/Most Of All — Casablanca CAN 1019 Pic Bag

Family Brown — I'm Gonna Getcha/(Dub Mix) — Buzz International VIBE 4T 12"

Jim Glaser — Woman, Woman/I'd Love To See You Again — Range RANS.73

Emmylou Harris — On The Radio/Good News — Warner Brothers W9364

Albums

Moe Bandy — Motel Matches — CBS 25927/40/25927

Johnny Cash — The First Years — Allegiance ALEB 2303/ZCALB 2303

Willie Nelson — The Legend Begins — Allegiance ALEB 2302/ZCALB 2302

Willie Nelson — Wild And Willie — Allegiance ALEB 2308/ZCALB 2308

Johnny Paycheck — I Don't Need To Know That Right Now — Allegiance ALEB 2301/ZCALB 2301

Carl Perkins — The Heart And Soul Of Carl Perkins — Allegiance ALEB 2308/ZCALB 2308

Ray Pillow — One Too Many Memories — Allegiance ALEB 2307/ZCALB 2307

Conway Twitty — You Made Me What I Am — Allegiance ALEB 2306/ZCALB 2306

Leroy Van Dyke — The Auctioneer — Ace CH 99/

Slim Whitman — Greatest Hits — Liberty LBR 260053-1/TC-LBR 260053

Faron Young — The Sheriff — Allegiance ALEB 2305/ZCALB 2305

Glen Campbell — Country Favourites — Capitol EG 260052-1/TC-EG 260052-4

Mac Davis — Soft Talk — Casablanca/Phonogram CANL 9/CANLC 9

Joe Ely — Hi-Res — MCA MCF 3214/MCFC 3214

Jim Glaser — The Man In The Mirror — Range RANGE 7003/-

Barbara Mandrell — Clean Cut — MCA MCF 3218/MCFC 3218

Reba McEntire — Just A Little Love — MCA MCF 3217/MCFC 3217

Various — Cross Country — Warner Brothers 240387-1/-

Gene Watson — Little By Little — MCA MCF 3213/MCFC 3213

Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys — Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys — Liberty SLS 260043-1/TC-SLS 260043-4

Chuck Willis — Keep A Drivin' — Charly CRB 1074/-

Don Williams — Best Of Don Williams Vol 3 — MCA MCF 3208/MCFC 3204

TOMMY OVERSTREET—I Still Love Your Body (3:15); producer: Bobby Lee Springfield; writers: B.L. Springfield, S. Allen; publishers: Chappell/Uni-Chappell, ASCAP/BMI; Gervasi SP 685. Here's another song in praise of older women, sung with gruff-voiced conviction. Contact: (916) 275-3900.

REVIEW

OFF THE RECORD

● I FEEL somehow that 'mini' festival would be a better description for this second festival at the Wyvern Theatre, cut down from last years two days to just one long evening event. But all that aside this years was a well deserved artistic and financial success.

● The evening started off with a live broadcast from the foyer of W R Country hosted by Lee Williams, who managed to obtain a reasonable mix of interviews with artistes appearing at the festival and playing requests and dedications.

● The concert, which was a joint venture between Wiltshire Radio, the Wyvern Theatre and Lee Williams' agency Allen Promotions, managed to provide a nice line-up with enough variety to please everyone. All of the acts are well known on the club scene and so needed little introduction, but it was nice to see them under theatre conditions with 100% listening audience. The Wyvern, with its comfortable, well arranged seating and excellent acoustics, is an ideal venue for country music shows.

● The concert was compered jointly by Lee Williams and the 'Bernard Manning of country music' Tony Best. First act on

Clive Wynes

SHOW REVIEW

WYVERN THEATRE SWINDON

stage was Borderline, who, though basically a bluegrass duo with banjo, guitar and vocals, stretched the music to its limits in their short spot.

● They were followed on stage by another duo with a complete contrast in style. Bob Newman and Carole Gordon proved why they are rated by some among the better duos on the local scene today, with Carole switching from guitar to keyboards and Bob from guitar to fiddle, while all the time maintaining their really excellent vocals.

● The first half of the show was closed in fine style by Frank Jennings and Syndicate who also proved what a highly professional and entertaining outfit they are. With four great musicians and Frank's front vocal it's easy to see why this band remain so popular.

● The second half of the event was opened by Tony Best in his own popular style. I must admit that this man does absolutely nothing for me, but there I was in a minority, and he seems to sell out wherever he appears.

● The rest of the evening was turned over to the Yellowstone Picnic Band who have made great strides in the still relatively short time they've been together. With a wide range of material and styles, including plenty of 'new' material, they managed to switch moods, from humour to pathos and back again with no trouble. Altogether an excellent show that didn't falter or flag right from the start. An excellent advert for British country music and the organisers.

● The next country event planned for the Wyvern is 23 September. If that is anywhere near as good, or as well supported, I'm sure we shall be seeing many more there in the future.

CAROUSEL PROMOTIONS present

DOMINION THEATRE

TOTTENHAM COURT RD LONDON W1.

SUSAN McCANN COUNTRY SHOW



GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 20 at 7-30pm

also appearing The TULSA BAND & The STORYTELLERS

Tickets: £5.00 £4.50 £4.00 from Box Office Tel: 01.580 9562

SHOW REVIEW

NOT A 'PATCH' ... ON PREVIOUS TOURS

Mick Green

● SOME years ago Dr Hook received such acclaim getting on 'The Cover Of The Rolling Stone' and they have found their way onto this mags front page, but following the latest change of emphasis I feel they now have little chance of making the cover picture of a country publication ever again!

● To be fair to the band they never have claimed to be a country band or to play country music, yet despite being put in the soft rock category in the States, they have been accepted by many British country music fans as a country rock band due to their association with certain songs and songwriters.

● Over the years, as the band has evolved we have seen the country content gradually diminish as first the steel was replaced by another lead guitar, then the prominent type of music became pop, crossover or even disco, then this year's tour, following the departure of Ray Sawyer, sees even less for the country fan.

● Of course many of the Shel Silverstein songs are still featured, but even 'Queen Of The Silver Dollar' has put a bit of weight on and gone 'heavy' and songs like 'Wonderful Soup Stone' have disappeared completely. Whatever they leave out probably causes complaints, but what they have replaced it with takes them further away from country than they've ever been, i.e. synthesizers!

MY FAVOURITE LIVE BAND

● Hook have been my favourite live band for a decade now and they still put on an absolutely first-class performance and give their audience excellent value for money. The show I reviewed lasted nearly three hours with Hook on stage for two-and-a-quarter!



● However, I have always felt that the strength of 'Hook' was that the total show was better than the total of the seven individuals ... in fact no one was Dr Hook, the band were! On this tour I felt it was more a case of ...

... ANYONE FOR DENNIS?

● For the facts are that he, Dennis Locorriere, spent virtually one third of the time on stage as a solo performer, sang lead vocals on all the songs except three, and when John, Bill or Rik were singing their one lead vocal he managed to play

lead guitar on one, harmonica solo on another and drums on the third! In addition he handled virtually all the communication with the audience.

● The man worked (both with the audience and hard for the audience) but at times you were aware he was working — something that never happened in the past when he had had Ray Sawyer often dashing round the stage like a man with itching powder in his pants. Of course, the showmanship is still there, but I was longing for those hairs to start moving out on the back of my neck as they have always done in the past, but it just didn't happen.

● In last months interview Dennis asked us to consider what was new rather than what was missing and they did present a lot of new material. The more serious 'The Right Kind Of Girl', 'You're So Vicious', 'Sinking Ship' were excellently performed but on one hearing I did not find them memorable.

● They did have two numbers in the traditional Hook vein with 'If You Leave Me' that had tongue in cheek (or should I say boot in balls) lyrics and 'Just What I Do When I Don't Get Much Pussy' ... which needless to say isn't about cats!

● They also had a comedy number written and sung by drummer John called 'Jamaica In Vogue', in which he dresses up. But it was the old songs that the fans called out for (naturally) and the old ones that got the most applause. I looked round the audience and got the impression they were older than the average pop concert and had probably been fans for years.

● I like the idea of Dennis singing a couple of songs on his own and it has always helped to give the concerts light and shade, but those people that bought 'Only Sixteen', 'Sylvia's Mother', 'Freakin' At The Freakers' Ball', 'Lucy Jordan', etc

did not buy a solo act on those records and it seems a shame to let six such good musicians hang around so much.

● I suppose as one of the older fans I missed the magic and excitement of 'Got Stoned And I Missed It', 'You Make My Pants Wanna Get Up And Dance', 'Everybody's Making It Big But Me', etc, etc., but I was amongst those fans on their feet cheering at the end and demanding not just 'A Little Bit More', but a lot more.

● As I said earlier, very little for the country fan, but no one can complain at value for money and it was certainly entertaining.

COUNTRY QUESTIONS

ANSWERED BY
PETE SMITH . . .
AND FRIENDS

? Margaret Berry of Chard, Somerset would like to know about Gospel singer Cynthia Clawson.

A Cynthia, the daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher has been singing and perfecting her four octave voice since the age of three. She was the 1978 finalist for Best Gospel Female and has recorded jingles and station announcements for the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, also she's seen and heard on numerous radio and TV commercials throughout America. I know of only five albums recorded by Cynthia, though I dare say there are more. These are: 'In The Garden' (TR 101), 'The Way I Feel' (TR 112), 'It Was His Love' (TR 116), 'You're Welcome Here' (TR 124), 'Finest Hour' (TR 148). All these albums are on the Triangle label but where you'll obtain them I just don't know, unless you know a good Christian book/record shop. The address of Triangle Records is 824, 19th Avenue South, Box 23088, NASHVILLE, Tennessee, 37202. Incidentally, Cynthia is married to actor/writer Ragan Courtney.

? J Payne of Greenford, Middx is anxious to obtain Rattlesnake Annie recordings.

A I don't know of any dealer who handles Annie's records. She usually markets them

herself when on tour. Annie's album, 'Rattlesnakes & Rusty Water' (Rattlesnake RR 1010) contains the tracks 'Good Ole Country Music', 'Carolina Blue', 'Rattlesnake Mama', 'Goodbye To A River', 'Gypsy Lady', 'Lay Me A Rail For The Road', 'Blue Flame Cafe', 'Tellico Plains', 'My Mother's Name Is Victory' and the title track. There is also a single, 'Long Black Limousine' (featuring Willie Nelson)/'Tennessee Lullaby' (Rattlesnake RS 400). Try writing to Annie via Gallimore Agency, PO Box 560, MARTIN, Tennessee, 38237, USA. She may be able to help you.

? Sue Bare of Stockton would like to know where she can obtain the albums Ronnie McDowell 'Personally' and T G Sheppards 'Greatest Hits'.

A Try telephoning 01-673 1066 or 6130. Tell them we told you.

? Debra Hadley of Clacton-on-Sea requires a track called 'D.I.V.O.R.C.E.' by Lynn Anderson.

A Well Debra, I've thumbed through my fifteen Lynn Anderson albums and can't come up with this track. (Can anyone out there help?)

? William McKinney of Belfast would like copies of Guy Mitchell's 'Let Us Be Sweethearts All

Over Again' and 'The Doll With The Sawdust Heart' and 'We Won't Live In A Castle'.

A Sorry Bill, I have nothing at all on these songs. Again perhaps our friends out there can help?!

? Danny Dunleavy of Co Donegal wants to know if Buck Owens album 'Roll Out The Red Carpet' is still available. Also, have we heard of a song called 'I'm In The Arms Of A Heartache' by Rod Vane?

A Not much help to you I'm afraid Danny. I've not been able to track down the Buck Owens album. (Try telephoning (0978) 841075 and again tell them we sent you.) The Rod Vane song has me baffled also; so . . . we need readers help.

? George & Lee Bartlett of Frinton-On-Sea have Dottie West singing some excellent songs and they would like to know of other fine versions.

A This is one for 'you' my friends. Let me know of your favourite versions of the following songs: 'You're The Other Half Of Me', 'Six Weeks Every Summer', 'Tiny', 'If It's Alright With You', 'Baby I Tried', 'Once You Were Mine', 'Your Sweet Love', 'Wish I Didn't Love You Anymore', 'It Sure Seemed Right', 'You're Just What



● Jerry Lee Lewis

I've Been Looking For My Love', and 'It's Been A Long Time Since Atlanta'.

● To settle some of our outstanding issues. There is definitely no such album as 'Hank Williams Jnr & Roy Orbison'. The number quoted was for 'Hank Williams The Roy Orbison Way'. This was re-issued recently as 'Big O Country'.

● Our friends seem to think the Canadian outfit, Country Edition, to be Lynn Jones' backing band.

● You can find the Jerry Lee Lewis fan club c/o Colin Phillips, PO Box 20, Sutton, Surrey.

● We've come across two old Dean Martin country albums, 'Welcome To My World' (Reprise 6250) and 'Gentle On My Mind' (Reprise 6330).

● T R Dallas, from Co Moate has enjoyed several quite recent hit records in Ireland, including 'It's Hard To Be Humble', 'Who Shot J R', 'Whiskey Castles', 'Daddy's

Girl' and 'Big Tom Doesn't Play Here Anymore'. For further details can I suggest you contact Paschal Mooney, RTE Radio 2, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

? We are still searching for songs entitled or called, 'Compared to Loretta Lynn I'm A City Slicker', and 'I'm The Son Of A Sailor And The Sea's In My Blood'. A copy of Lorne Green's 'Green, Green, Green' and that elusive information about Robin Lee, a country singer from the sixties.

● NO stranger to the UK . . . Roy Frank Drusky was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He had little interest in music whilst attending Tech High School: he preferred sports. It was whilst serving in the Navy on the USS Toledo that he became interested in country music.

'We had a little country band on the ship. They played the typical older type things of the day. I remember they had a boy who played lead on a flat-top and he was very good. It was then I bought a guitar and started learning to play.'

● When he left the Navy, Roy decided to pursue a conventional career. Returning to Atlanta in 1950 he enrolled at Emory University to study veterinary medicine but during the evenings Roy and some buddies got together to play music at local hops.

● 1951 was the year Drusky formed his first professional band, the Southern Ranch Boys.

● The Southern Ranch Boys secured a daily fifteen minute spot on station WEAS in Decatur but it wasn't long before Roy Drusky became a featured DJ with that station. This led to a solo singing job at the Circle H Ranch in Atlanta, where for three years he drew record crowds.

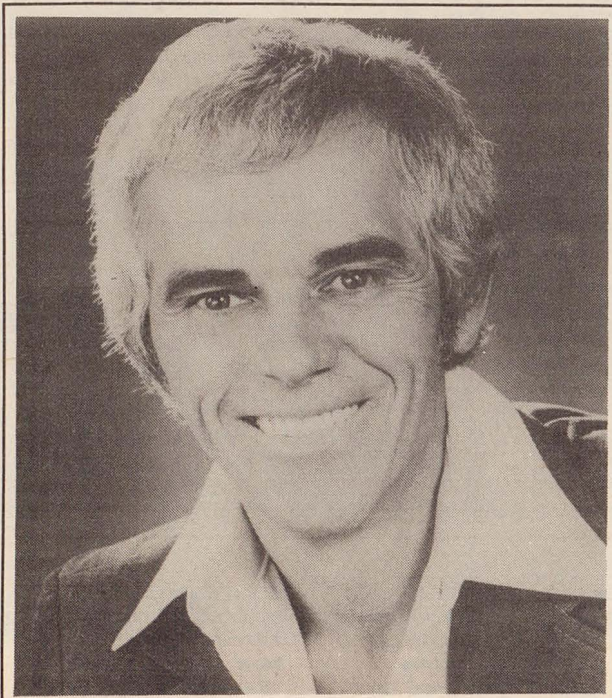
● Roy signed his first recording contract with Starday and gained a hit with 'Such A Fool'. During his long career he has been with Columbia, Decca, Mercury, Capital, and Plantation Records and has scored many hits.

● Over those years Roy's material was available mainly via import shops. However, in 1980 the Scottish promoter Drew Taylor brought him over to appear at his Scottish Festival of Country Music. He proved to be such an immense hit that Taylor signed him to a recording and management

contract for outside the USA, and in January 1981 Roy's first album was released on Taylor's own label Big 'R' Records. Entitled 'Roy' it had been recorded some time ago, but since has sold extremely well throughout Europe, and Big 'R' Records also re-released 'Nightflying'. With another

album in the can recorded last year with British producer Ian Grant.

● A member of the Grand Ole Opry for almost two decades Roy is primarily a country performer but does a variety of music that cuts across the tastes of young and old. Roy Drusky tours Britain 15-31 May. (Full details elsewhere.)



SPOTLIGHT

ROY DRUSKY

PONTIN'S Hobby & Leisure Holidays



● NOW firmly established as the 'live-in' country music festival leaders, Pontin's are organising no fewer than five major residential country and western music events this year. Which gives not only excellent holiday facilities but a tremendous variety of country entertainment.

The Pontins all-star programmes include top artists and groups from the very best of the British country scene, and have the knack of throwing up that new face for the British club circuit.

All venues are self-catering holiday villages, with accommodation provided in modern chalets with their own cooker, refrigerator, colour TV and bathroom. There are self-service restaurants when the thought of cooking is just too much.

As well as a full programme of live country music, there's darts, snooker, heated swimming pools, plus much more for all the family and kids to enjoy. As prices start at around £88 and VAT per week (that covers a chalet to sleep four persons). There's no doubt at all

5 Great Country Music festivals 1984

that it remains tremendous value for money especially as far as a depression hit family is concerned. If you hurry you still might get booked in. Telephone (0202) 295600.

This season kicks off this month with two spring festivals: at Prestatyn Sands Holiday Village in Somerset (May 5 to 12); and at Brean Sands Holiday Village in Somerset (May 19 to 26). Both these venues now have a track record for providing every opportunity for fans to either relax with the music or enter into their own fantasy world of the wild west.

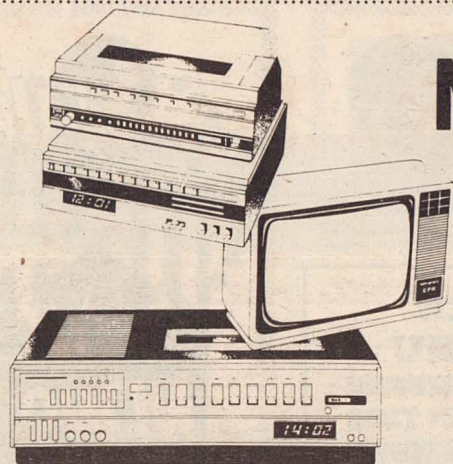
Later in the year three autumn festivals are scheduled: for October 12 to 21 at Brean Sands; and two separate weeks,

September 22 to 29 and September 29 to October 6 at Hemsby Holiday Village, near Great Yarmouth, East Anglia, which was the venue where Pontins really cut their teeth on the country and western bullet.

For full details of 1984 Country Music Festivals, tariffs etc, contact:

Pontin's Holidays, Compton House, St. Peter's Road, Bournemouth BH1 2NT.

May 1984



NEW TECHNOLOGY —

● I CAN imagine the looks of horror as country music fans read a headline like that in a country music paper, but before you rush on to something more conventional stop and think, for the whole future of country music as we know it is tied up in how the new technology is used.

A BLESSING OR A THREAT ? Mick Green

● Make no mistakes about it, new technology has moved faster in the communications field than in any other and in this country we have only begun to see the tip of the iceberg. As far as we are concerned it will take on several different forms; TV — with satellite and cable channels soon to be opening up; radio; recording; and the printed word.

PUTTING YOU IN THE PICTURE ABOUT TV

● The power of TV cannot be overstated. Don't forget that General Elections are now won on that little screen that sits in the corner of your room. Then there's the upsurge of obscure sports like snooker, darts and ice skating all lifted in national prominence because of the suitability to coverage by television.

● Over the next five years we can expect to see our choice of what we want to watch double in most areas so I suppose it's logical to assume that the amount of country music shown on TV will increase also. Whether it will be for the good of the British country music scene in general is another matter. For

every new or extra form of entertainment competes for its fans and this means TV will still compete further with existing local clubs and with major live shows.

● Over the years we have seen a gradual decline in the number of those major tours. It's doubtful if the number of major names touring the UK this year will even get into double figures. So, for the average fan the TV screen becomes a bonus as it may be as near as they're likely to get to their favourite country entertainer, but of course it's cheaper.

CHANNEL FOUR

● Channel 4 has already shown the benefit of 'extra' channels, for although they still have not got fantastic viewing figures, from a country point of view it has allowed us to see Willie Nelson and others and there's Waylon Jennings plus the CMA Anniversary and the Awards shows scheduled. It is doubtful if any of these would have been considered popular enough for the other channels. So when you consider the quality of the artistes what hope have lesser known acts got?

OTHER CHANNELS

● BBC 1's opinion of country appeal can be figured out by the transmission of Barbara Mandrell's programme immediately in front of the epilogue (perhaps they thought it was gospel!)

● BBC 2 at least provides coverage of Wembley, usually cut into little segments for easy digestion to be shown months later, but Pete Sayer's Electric Music Show, or whatever it was called, came across to me as if it was run on worn-out flat batteries!

● The one good thing about ITV is that since 'Honky Tonk Heroes', at least it has not done anymore harm to country music apart from '3-2-1's trip to Nashville, when the bales of straw and bib jeans were all dusted down and got out again — even poor ol' George Hamilton IV had his suit taken away and was given a pair. Tammy Cline was dressed up like a western Sindy Doll including the 'traditional' flower stuck in her hair, while everyone was ya-hooing and shit-stomping to the best of their ability shouting: 'Ya'll come! This is country music cousins!'

● So any new channels on approach must be an improvement and bring benefits. (It will, won't it?)

The Good News: ● TV stations eat up material like crazy. Trouble is all too often it's never mind the quality, look at the Jicra ratings. Still with more channels and a limited amount of output they will inevitably put more country music on.

The Bad News: ● After the initial use of existing material who will make the new shows. It will be too expensive to make specials for a minority audience and by then will there be any major tours over here to record, or will all the fans be staying at home watching all these extra TV channels?

● The BBC has been under attack recently for dropping down the TV ratings. It cannot win. It puts on Thorn Birds and gets its largest audience for a year, it's slated by the critics; however, no-one wants to watch its 'quality' programmes.

● Attacks have even appeared in the national daily press claiming that the BBC is living beyond its means and one of the savings suggested is closing all the local BBC radio stations. How many

hours per week of country music would that reduce us to?

● Perhaps part of their plan is to stop the BBC getting an increase in TV licence. Like you, when the time comes to pay my £46 for a coloured licence it hurts. £46 still buys lot of booze and as a born-again drunkard that's the way I price things! But for the average family of four it works out less than £1 per month each, for two channels of TV plus national radio and local BBC radio. If anyone can name me a better bargain I'd like to know it.

With these new channels — satellite and cable — we need our national broadcasting corporation to be involved, but not at the cost of local radio. It has to be paid for, and if we're not prepared to pay an increase in our TV licence, far from having more choice we will end up being able to watch the same cheap and nasty rubbish on lots of channels. And the chances are it will be non-country cheap and nasty rubbish.

● People thought it was great when they could record all the records on their cassettes for nothing, but after only a few years our amount of choice has gone down. And if the Japanese idea of having shops where you can 'hire' an album, buy a blank tape and record it without leaving the shop catches on here they'll be even less records released.

● The price of freedom has always been high. Part of freedom is involved in our TV viewing and our amount of choice regarding music. The cost of that is reasonable, TV licence fees and buying cheap could cost us all dear in the long run.

● Don't say you haven't been warned!



SEARCH FOR A SONG

● THE Foyle Festival 1984 which runs from 26 May to 9 June is organised by Londonderry City Council. As part of this year's Festival in conjunction with BBC Radio Foyle, the local station, they have this year launched a new popular song contest open to amateur and professional composers and there's a cash prize of £500 for the best entry.

There will be six selections which will go through to a final held in the Guildhall, Londonderry, at a special gala evening where as well as the final of the song contest there's cabaret by international singing star, Sonny Knowles.

The city has produced its own top class composers and singers over the years. Best known would be Phil Coulter who had major success with his Eurovision Contest songs 'Puppet On A String' and 'Congratulations'. Phil also wrote a string of hit singles for teen group 'The Bay City Rollers'. Another noted composer from the field of country music is Johnny McCauley who has the distinction of having composed an incredible thirty-three No. 1 hit singles in Ireland, the last of which was 'Four Country Roads' which was recorded by Big Tom.

The six finalists will have an eight orchestra at their disposal for the final.

The panel of judges for the final will be made up of top people from the recording industry and the entertainment world. If you wish to enter your songs remember entries close 30 April 1984.

UK HOME TAPING

● DID you know some 41% of the adult population of the UK now admit to making some kind of music recording at home, according to a recent national survey. And more than half the country's owners of tape recording hardware say that compensation should be paid to record companies and artistes who lose out financially because of home taping.

The British Market Research Bureau (BMRB) survey reveals that nearly 30% of all adults make recordings from the radio, while one in four record from records.

Using these figures as a calculation base, the British Phonographic Industry now estimates that lost retail sales in Britain last year amounted to 316 million pounds and says it's 'quite possible' the figure could have been nearly three times as much, though a 'very likely' assessment, would be in the region of 550 million.

The BPI estimates that, in 1983, some 67.3 million recordings were made with an equivalent retail value of 314 million pounds.

Dolly IN LONDON



DOLLY IN LONDON

Dorothy Horstman

● DOLLY PARTON brings her uniquely American superstar talent to the stage of London's Dominion Theatre in her triumphal appearance of 21 May 1983. A bestselling songwriter, accomplished musician, country Entertainer of the Year, and sex symbol, she's a performer whose very presence lights up a stage. From her landing at Heathrow Airport, through an insightful impromptu conference, to the tender closing moments of her concert, 'Dolly in London' traces a day in Dolly Parton's life. It is no ordinary day, however, for it marks her conquest of another continent.

Resplendent in her revealing costumes, Dolly dominates the stage from her opening number, the spirited pop-rock song, 'Baby, I'm Burning'. Her millions of loyal country fans then come in for a turn with an array of her biggest hits, including, 'Jolene', 'Coat Of Many Colours', and 'Appalachian Memories'.

One of the highlights of the evening is a rendition of 'Do I Ever Cross Your Mind', sung a cappella in perfect harmony with three boys from her band. Afterward they do the same number as if it were a record being played at the wrong speed for a hilarious effect. Dolly then demonstrates her command of contemporary sounds and her beloved gospel music.

Her accomplished band members add a note of their own with instrumental versions of 'Duelling Banjos' and 'Orange Blossom Special', then Dolly changes pace with a delightful song called 'I'm Still Doing the Rhumba' and an absolutely uncanny imitation of Elvis Presley singing 'All Shook Up'.

Those who know Dolly through her smash movies, '9 to 5' and 'The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas' know how charming she can be, and her running patter is as entertaining as her phenomenal musicianship. After a standing ovation she returns to close the show with her favourite, 'I Will Always Love You'. Judging by the Britons' thunderous applause it seems clear that they will always love Dolly Parton.

● Included in the eighty minutes video by RCA/Columbia Pictures International, 'Dolly In London', are the hits: 'Baby, I'm Burning', 'Jolene', 'Two Doors Down', 'Coat Of Many Colours', 'Appalachian Memories', 'Applejack', 'Do I Ever Cross Your Mind', 'Gospel Medley', 'Brother Love's Travelling Salvation Show', 'I'll Fly Away', 'When The Saints Go Marching In', 'Old Time Religion', 'Brother Love's Travelling Show', 'Band Medley', 'Duelling Banjos', 'Orange Blossom Special' (featuring Tom Rutledge and Jim Salestrom), 'Rhumba Girl', 'All Shook Up', 'Me And Little Andy', 'Down From Dover', 'Here You Come Again', '9 to 5', 'Great Balls Of Fire', 'I Will Always Love You'.

**NEXT MONTH
WE SHALL BE
GIVING AWAY
5 OF THESE
VIDEOS**

May 1984

COUNTRY ROCK PILE



FEATURE COMPILED BY PETE SMITH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all Taurus and Gemini people, including:— Sonny James & Rita Coolidge (1st); John Ware, R C Bannon & Larry Gatlin (2nd); Dave Dudley (3rd); Stella Parton (4th); Tammy Wynette (5th); Terry Allen (7th); Rick Nelson & Lew DeWitt (8th); Hank Snow, Richie Furay & Paul Cotton (9th); Joe Maphis & Billy Swan (12th); Eddy Arnold (15th); Jesse Winchester & Penny DeHaven (17th); Rodney Dillard & Joe Bonsall (18th); Mickey Newbury (19th); Mac Wiseman & Shelly West (23rd); Rosanne Cash (24th); Tom T Hall & Jessi Colter (25th); Hank Williams Jnr (26th); Don Williams (27th); Gary Stewart (28th); Johnny Gimble (30th); Johnny Paycheck (31st)

● WHEN one puts faith in a band it is extremely pleasing to find that that faith has not been misplaced. I experienced this when I caught the country rock outfit Stone Creek on their first outing, last Christmas. I thought then the band had potential so when I caught up with them again some three months later, I was glad to acknowledge that here's a band soon to be contenders for the title 'Best British Country Rock Outfit'. Stone Creek make no apologies for their brand of country. They insist on being billed as country rock and live up to this billing by performing the songs of The Eagles, Pure Prairie League, Waylon Jennings, etc. They do, I hasten to add, feature the odd Merle Haggard and Don Williams tune. The line-up is Roy Scarratt (lead vocals, guitar), Dave Hepworth (lead and steel guitars, harp, vocals), Melvin Kirkham (bass, vocals) and Brian Nichols (drums). Stone Creek's presentation is heightened by Roy dressed as a railroad telegrapher, Dave with his top hat and tails, Melvin the undertaker and Brian the drunk. Brian, incidentally is also a drummer with the acclaimed Frickley Colliery Band. Don't miss Stone Creek: they are worth supporting!

● Also a new relatively speaking Free Spirit 2. You'll recall that because of Mike Mills damaged throat, Free Spirit I had to take an unscheduled break. C J Bradley moved on during this interval. Meanwhile, when Mike regained his singing voice, he took up a 'solo' career, but it didn't provide the musical fulfilment he was used to. Fate took a hand. When Mike's teenage son came to stay with him, the idea broke — why not reform Free Spirit as Mike & Harvey Mills. Harvey learned bass guitar and rehearsed incessantly with his father. Free Spirit 2 are now being spoken of in terms of 'better than the original', but my opinion is reserved, for now though I will concede that Harvey has much potential and that Mike has never sung better than he is now. (I would be interested in your comments.)

● Carey Duncan seems again to be poised to make a name for herself in Britain. Carey has been rated in country music clubs for some time, but her latest promotional campaign should put her name before a far larger audience. Carey has already taped twelve shows for STV, signed a recording deal with Ritz and

gained another spot at the Silk Cut Festival. Her new album could be quite something. Boudleaux & Felice Bryant are the major writers. Archie Bleyer, one time associate of the Everly Brothers is the producer and the musicians include Charlie McCoy, Reggie Young, Bobby Thompson, Larrie

Londin, Shane Keister and Henry Strzelecki. Add all this to the fact that Carey's earlier 'Live In London' album has been released in India, and Carey Duncan could be set to reach the heights.

● I note President Reagan recently presented Tennessee Ernie Ford with a Freedom Medal, America's highest civilian honour, and Willie Nelson, once again, walked away with the 'Rolling Stone' readers award as 'Best Country Artist', also Ricky Skaggs won that publication's critics award for the same category.

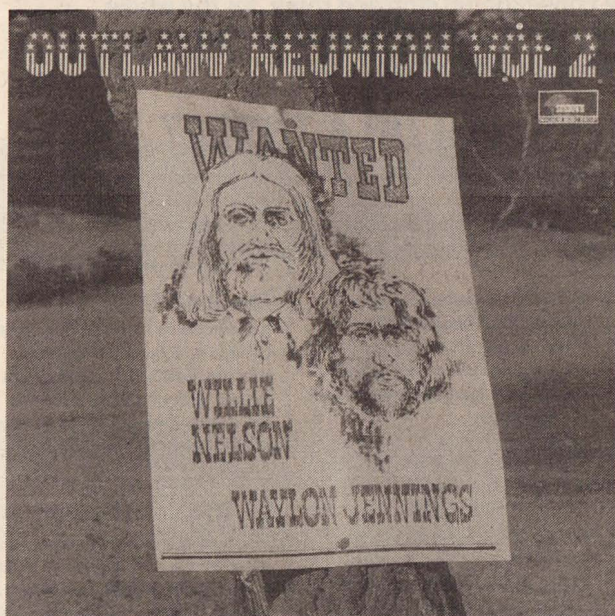
● Paul Richey, a late addition to the bill for the Silk Cut Festival, has a good single released and an album, 'The Devil Inside' should be available by now.

● Imports: Gene Watson's 'Little By Little' is a most enjoyable experience. Tracks include 'The Chesapeake Bay', 'The Ballad of

NEW CMRU SUBSCRIBERS CAN WIN THIS SUPER NEW COUNTRY ALBUM

Every month we are now going to offer new subscribers the chance to win a country album in our monthly draw. If you are already a subscriber and due for renewal don't worry, you will still be eligible for the **FREE DRAW**

But don't waste time, your subscription must be with us by the first of next month. For the subscription rates see elsewhere in this publication.



FREE!

Subscribers

Country Music Round Up

This month's winning new subscription entry in our free draw was Mr W J Gowlett, 322 Torrington Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry, West Midlands

He wins the latest Pinkard & Bowden album 'Writers In Disguise'

Richard Lindsey and 'Drinkin' My Way Back Home'. An album not to miss is 'Swingin'', a collection of number one hits, instrumental versions, played by some of the best pickers in Music City. Try 'Heartbroke', 'Elvira' and 'Mountain Music'. Look out also for Mel McDaniel 'Oklahoma Wind', David Allan Coe 'Just Divorced', Sylvia 'Surprise', and Mac Davis 'Soft Talk'.

● That's it for this month.



BBC RADIO SHEFFIELD COUNTRY TOP 20

Presented by Mel Hague

POSITION	ARTISTE	RECORD	LAST WEEK	WEEKS IN CHART
1	Jesse Shofner	Emily	1	14
2	Tony Best	They Don't Play Rock of Ages on the Jukebox	3	4
3	Hank Williams Jnr	Homecoming Queen	2	20
4	Kenny Rogers & Dolly Parton	Islands In The Stream	4	10
5	Burrito Bros	Almost Saturday Night	9	4
6	Ross Allen	Heading Back Home	10	4
7	Wayne Carson	1 year, 2 months & 11 days	8	11
8	Carmol Taylor	Honky Tonk At Home	5	8
9	Anne Murray	Just Another Woman In Love	6	8
10	Bobby Bare	Drinking From The Bottle	13	17
11	Ross Allen	I'll Be Seeing You Some Day	7	10
12	Keith Manifold	Time	11	11
13	David Allan Coe	The Ride	14	24
14	Eileen King	Everybody's Reaching Out	15	9
15	Albert Hall	Modern Day Love Song	17	4
16	Peter Kane	El Paso City	12	10
17	Linda Brick	Later For Me	18	3
18	Dick Damron	I'm Not Ready For The Blues	16	14
19	Roly Daniels	He Stopped Loving Her Today	19	3
20	Peggy Sue & Sonny Wright	If You Were Mine	Entry	1

BBC RADIO OXFORD COUNTRY TOP 20

Presented by Stuart Cameron

POSITION	ARTISTE	RECORD	LAST WEEK	WEEKS IN CHART
1	Alabama	Roll On (RCA)	1	9
2	Billie Jo Spears	Midnight Blue (Parliament)	2	7
3	Mel McDaniel	I Call It Love (Capitol)	4	11
*4	T G Sheppard & Clint Eastwood	Make My Day (Warner)	3	5
5	David Allan Coe	Mona Lisa Lost Her Smile (CBS)	9	2
6	John Conlee	An American Trilogy	7	3
7	Mel McDaniel	Where'd That Woman Go (Capitol)	8	3
*8	Mel McDaniel	Going Going Gone (MCA)	10	2
9	Kenny Rogers	Evening Star (RCA)	6	10
*10	Ed Bruce	After All (MCA)	5	11
11	Dan Seals	God Must Be A Cowboy (Liberty)	14	7
12	Johnny Lee and Lane Brody	Yellow Rose (Warner)	13	8
13	Atlanta	Sweet Country Music (MCA)	12	7
14	Tom Jones	I've Been Rained On Too (Mercury)	15	8
15	Texas Vocal Company	Backsliding (RCA)	19	2
16	James and Michael Younger	Shoot First, Ask Questions Later (MCA)	20	2
17	George Strait	You Look So Good In Love (MCA)	17	6
18	The Whites	Old Familiar Feeling (Warner)	16	6
*19	Dave Sheriff	Don't Tell Me Lies (Dapa)	18	3
20	Johnny Tillotson	Lay Back (Reward)	ENTRY	1

* On general British release. Other on import only.



BARBARY COAST

● THERE is a new single out from Barbary Coast. It is a Randy Meisner composition (him of Eagles fame) called 'Hearts On Fire' a very strong COR! record. What's COR! I hear you ask, well, according to the group, it is Country Orientated Rock.

Reaction to the single has been excellent and is already getting quite a lot of airplay, there's even expectations that it could make the national chart?

On the North East-based label, MDE records, it should be available via your local record shop, however, in case of difficulty contact MDE Records, 23 Bondicar Road, South Broomhill, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Barbary Coast plan to go back to these studios to record an LP which will feature some of their more popular stage numbers, something which is long overdue.

Barbary Coast are currently on their extensive tour with Frank Ifield (it takes them through 'til December), but the boys are still available for selected dates on their own.

HAMILTON'S POWER SUCCESS

● THE Midlands group Hamilton's Power completed a successful year in 1983 touring Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Belgium and finally Canada where the act went down well. Since their return, they have regained lead guitarist Barry Rutter, 27, a founder member of four years ago. With the switch in line-up comes a change in style that will take in more current country material from America and concentrate on group harmonies. Since their return from Canada they have been touring Britain.

CLASSIFIED

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SAE to: Margaret Trotter Secretary,
3 Priory Bank Villas, COLDESTREAM,
Berwickshire, TD12 4DZ.
Tel: (0890) 2871

YOUR LINE OF COUNTRY



to the Editors,

Owing to the fact that Radio 202 'Country Club' is being taken off the air, we are seeking the help of Radio Stations, papers and Country and Western Clubs in our bid to keep the programme on the air.

Yours faithfully Tony Curran
Sutton Courtenay Club
Abingdon Bounty Hunters Club
Oxford Western Society Club
and all other local clubs.

30 Tyrrells Way
Sutton Courtenay
ABINGDON
OX14 2BN



Dear Ed

What a nice surprise it was to read in your 'mag' a letter from the couple appreciating our 'Drive-In' country & western show.

With many thanks I shall be forwarding them complimentary tickets for our next show on 16 June, which I shall be advertising soon in your mag!

Thanking them once more and thanking you for being kind enough to print it.

J Bradley
Orgainser of 'Country & Western Drive-In'
Upton Fields Farm
Oakerthorpe Derbyshire



Dear Sir

I am writing to you to ask if you can help me, I would like to start collecting show programmes by country bands and singers. As I do not live near a town which holds such concerts, I would like to know if there are any places that I can approach to buy programmes; or, if any reader is willing to send me programmes I would be prepared to pay the price plus the cost of postage.

I would like to start with the programme of Charley Pride's latest tour as he is one of my favourite country singers. If you can tell me how I can obtain these I would be very grateful. Maybe you can ask your readers if they can help me?

Yours thankfully
Mr S Lauder
11 Kent Avenue
HARTLEPOOL



Dear Editor

I am enclosing details of the Scottish country TV programme broadcast on ITV on the information on this new series on page 2 (Why don't you number the pages of CMRU any more? — I find it infuriating as I'm always taking it apart and re-assembling it!) Well, I'll tell you, the column I refer to is directly under 'Nelson's Column'.

I didn't watch this TV programme although I would have liked to, as I've seen earlier ones and enjoyed them. But — it was too late for this tired working girl — I was in bed before midnight that day. So I had to laugh at the comment by STV's Head of Entertainment: 'All Kind's Of Country' is intended to appeal to the widest possible audience of country music lovers. I'm sure when he said that, he had no idea that the strange breed called 'Programme Planners' would

relegate the series to the early hours, when the 'widest possible audience' of any kind, is not going to be available!

I was very interested to read Mick Green's 'Controversy Country' page. I agree with most of what he says. My three children, aged 20, 17 and 14 have been subjected to country music for the last nine years, but their favourite music is, of course, pop music — and who can blame them?! I love it too and always have. But on reaching middle age — yes I did!! — (in 1975 I was 36) — I got bored with the 'Sounds of the '70's, and gradually tuned to country music, acquiring the equipment to aid me in listening to it ad infinitum. Once I started in earnest, I became completely hooked on country music and, the more I hear it, the more I love it, and can't do without it.

There is such a variety nowadays and new talent is coming out on record, which I find exciting (eg. Gus Hardin). I buy as many records as I can afford — quite a lot! — and all the magazines I can get hold of (UK and USA). I also attend Wembley and Peterborough Festivals religiously, and any other shows that are possible to attend, but these latter have been getting fewer lately.

I was interested to read Mick's comments on 'TV and Videos'. I am waiting impatiently to see the 'CMA Awards' show on Channel 4. If they screen it at Easter, I shall do my little nut!

Also, when Mick mentioned 'regular videos by . . . Alabama, Lee Greenwood, Ronnie Milsap, etc.', I got very interested indeed. It's a shame Channel 4 only appeals to a minority audience — I watch it far more than ITV! But they have only ever answered one of my letters requesting country music — the rest were all ignored — despite my SAEs and I was polite, really I was.

I enjoyed all the Barbara Mandrell TV Shows and feel they must help to promote country music, even though I know some 'true' country fans disagree! The great disadvantage was the late-night showing.

I don't know what the answer is, but I do hope country music can prosper in the UK as it really deserves to reach a wider audience. You are doing a grand job in your magazine to spread the word — All the best in your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely
Diana Richardson
14 Poplar Close
HUNTINGDON
Cambs PE18 7BP



Dear Sir (Mick Green)

I must congratulate you on your thought provoking article which you used to return to the fold, i.e. CMRU.

Although my wife, daughter and myself all enjoy dressing up it's the music that really matters. You made a valid point about Radio 2's 'Country Club' format that nobody can defend. I had the dubious pleasure of talking to Wally Whyton at Wembley last Easter ('83) and asked him why he didn't give any air play to some of the Scots/Irish country artistes: his reply was that there were no acts that were good enough to be included in his programme. Now I know that I'm not a great judge to

influence other people's taste, but I'm confident that there is quite a large number of people who do in fact enjoy many home grown acts and will also buy albums featuring these.

On the other side of the business I opened up a country club in Rothesay, and despite massive help from the acts booked (re. discounts in their booking fees to get the club on its feet), I had to call it a day after losing money on six consecutive shows. Most of the would-be-members expected American acts and would not come out for acts that they couldn't hear on the BBC. I think that local independent radio is the media that might help to get us a larger share of the market, as they will play British acts if requested. (Which means we have to request them.)

May I finish by saying welcome back and stay longer.

Yours in country
A J Morrison
29 Foley Road
ROTHESAY
Isle of Bute Scotland



Dear Eds

Just a line to say many thanks for the April issue of CMRU — special thanks for the super Wembley Festival Supplement. The little 'reviews' of Wembley's past brought many a nostalgic memory — yes, it WAS better years ago! More 'country', less artistes and more time for the good 'uns. Unless perhaps, we've got a bit blasé now and a trifle ungrateful for what is obtainable at the price?

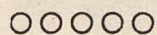
Delighted to see Mick Green back again in print. Whereas I didn't always see eye to eye with him on former occasions, I can't help but give him 100% agreement for his 'Controversy Country' article — if only the solution was as easy to find.

'Country Club' gets worse every week — I listen each Thursday night hoping in vain for an improvement. Seems somebody could take a lesson from the excellent show put on by David Callister of Manx Radio every Saturday 1pm to 4pm. Never a dull or losing number in the whole three hours, and 'chat' kept to a minimum. Fair exposure given to all artistes, competitions, requests, etc — really great.

Found many items of interest in the 'Round Up'. From your columns I have made my list of records to buy (hopefully!) from the exhibition on Easter Saturday, and also hope to see many of you there.

Thanks again and all the very best to you and yours.

Sincerely
Yvonne Evans
Tristan
19 Ffndd Mnfa
LLANDUDNO
PS: Extra special thanks for the quizzes (I cheated on some of 'em!)



Dear Editor

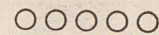
I have been presenting 'Mainly Country' on our local hospital radio which transmits to three hospitals in the area for over two years, taking over from a girl who had left. With the small collection of records and tapes at the hospital plus my own small collection I soon became addicted to the sound of country music. I was

presenting programmes with a theme and building the records around it, after exhausting all avenues I decided to buy CMRU thus giving the patients information to go with the music. Looking back on my copies of CMRU — not counting last September and October which my newsagent slipped up on — my interest in country music has widened, I've even been out to one or two venues to see live country music.

I must write to compliment you on a splendid newspaper — your issue of March '84 was crammed with news and information. If only I could present a programme as good as your publication I'm sure there would be less people in hospital — a great tonic.

Thanking you for your time
Bernard Sutherland
69 Brockley Avenue
Biddick Hall Estate
SOUTH SHIELDS

Eds: Such complements are very hard to live up to, but isn't it nice to get them. We would like to pay our tribute to your own unselfish contribution to fellow man and are pleased to send you a bonus pack of albums for your library.



Dear Eds

Just been doing the crossword in April CMRU. Surely '4 down' should read 'Louisiana' and not 'Tennessee'?

Thank you for sending the January copy of 'Round Up', it was greatly appreciated. Look forward to receiving my copy every month, and to make sure it doesn't go astray now, my newsagent delivers it personally. How's that for service.

Sincerely yours
June Davey

Eds: You found a puzzle with a puzzle didn't you?!



Dear Editor

Would you please allow me a little space to make a point that I feel is not only very important, but is becoming increasingly relevant?

Not for the first time (and unfortunately your excellent publication is involved, albeit innocently), American artistes of high standing are being advertised as appearing at future venues in a way that I can only describe as 'criminal', and while the artistes may be loathe to make a fuss and draw adverse publicity, I feel that the least I can do is make some small representation on their behalf.

No artiste should be billed or advertised as appearing at any venue until that artiste has signed a contract stating that he will do so. In one particular instance an American artiste, who is also a personal friend, did not receive a contract before his name was being used on a bill for a Festival to be held in the summer of this year! Now this is not only grossly unfair to the artiste concerned, but also equally unfair to his fans who are led to believe that he is appearing. Unfortunately, most fans know little of the internal politics of 'crowd-pulling'! This is by no means the first time that this has happened and I think that if we are to continue to see our favourite artistes over here, they must be treated with more consideration. Some of the names that appear as agent/promoter/organiser etc.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Dear CMRU

Greetings! Mistakes department ready?

1 Charlie Pride singing 'Stackalee' — surely Stagger Lee! Of course, I realise I'm probably too late for the prize single — I only got my CMRU today and even then I hunted the wrong Mick Green article first.

2 Round Up Stateside Scene — Little Nashville Opry is not in Nashville, Tn. but Nashville, Ind. i.e. not Tennessee but Indiana.

I do agree with Mick Green in so much that he refers to time spent on stage by leading acts. Last year in the USA I saw one show for £8 that lasted four hours, i.e. John Anderson, one hour, Jerry Reed, one hour, Waylon and Jessie two hours. Another by Ricky Skaggs at Memphis Mud Island lasted one-and-three-quarter hours.

3 Radio Oxford's Top 20 — No 12, Thom Bresh should surely read Tom Bresh!

Noel Casey in his review of Crawford Bill's LP in the April issue refers to a song as being beautiful. That song 'Angel Band'. For eager listeners an equally delightful version can be found on Jeffrey Shurtleff's debut LP on A&M Records. He duets the song with his mentor Joan Baez. I'd recommend the whole LP, released quite a few years ago — early 70's.

Thanks again for a good newspaper.

Yours
Martin D Young
148 Wyndcliff Road
Charlton
SE7 7LF

EDS: Such observations/enthusiasm deserves to be our letter of the month and gains you the free single.

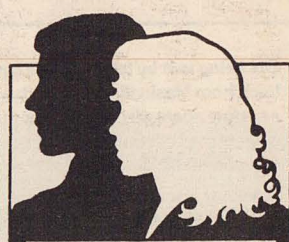
know that it is law, that says an agent has to be registered??? Or how many of them are simply 'dabbling'??? I am a full member of Equity and I intend to raise this point very strongly . . . if only to protect the good names of fellow-artistes and friends who are not in the position to do so for themselves. After all, if Mr 'X' is billed and advertised as appearing at a certain place at a certain time, do you not think it common courtesy that Mr 'X' should first be allowed to confirm this???

Let's have a bit of fair play, you 'Promoters' and less of the 'subject to alteration' ploy . . . especially when the artiste doesn't know what you are up to!!!

Freedom of the Press hardly extends to downright exploitation!!

Yours in country music
Pat Derry
576 Carnhill
Londonderry

MORE LETTERS
PAGE 17



Please

KEEP letters short.

Write on one side of the paper only. Letters written on both sides will not be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing and submission will be taken to imply acceptance of that condition.

The Editors

LETTER OF THE MONTH PRIZE

Each month now we shall be sending a new country single to the letter which the Editors consider to be the most interesting reading for whatever reason.

It can be funny, sad, irate, complimentary or anything else.

If you need a reply, send a SAE to The Editors, Country Music Round Up, Belgrave House, 32 Shaftesbury Avenue, Lincoln, LN6 0QN.

If an advertisement is wrong we're here to put it right.

If you see an advertisement in the press, in print, on posters or in the cinema which you find unacceptable, write to us at the address below.

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FOR ALL YOUR COUNTRY MUSIC

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COUNTRY
MUSIC Round Up

ON being met by friends who know we have just come back from Nashville two questions that come up time and time again are: exactly how much does it cost, and what is the best time to go if I don't want to be disappointed?

Being far from experts it is impossible to answer the first question with any accuracy because of the fluctuating pound against the dollar and as to the best time to go and disappointment that much depends on the people concerned. So what we have tried to do in this article is be as accurate as possible but please remember when we quote prices these are based on 1983 and at an exchange rate of 1.50 dollars to the pound.

TIME TO GO

In our opinion it is a good policy go during Fan Fair week in June or during the Grand Ole Opry Birthday Celebrations which take place from October 8-14 in 1984.

If you are over in the States any time during the summer months plenty of events are going on in Nashville, but we assume that in buying this publication country music is the prime objection of your holiday and these two weeks offer you the best opportunity to see the most country music stars.

GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL

There are arguments for either form of travel and equally strong reasons to reject either, but if you are thinking of going group travel then the BCMA or other organisations must be approached to see exactly what their package includes. The BCMA, of course, have been running group trips for years and are experts in many aspects of this type of event and they usually cover the Fan Fair week.

The advantages are obvious, you get all their expertise to make sure you see as much as possible and you have people on hand who can advise you of any special things you might be interested in. And generally it will be cheaper than making private arrangements and you will at least be assured of good hotel accommodation at a time of the year when hotel rooms are at a premium.

If you go during the October birthday celebrations very few organised trips are available so this article might prove more useful. If you are a DJ on a local radio station this is definitely the week to go because you will be allowed one free ticket to all the events and will have special taping sessions arranged for you with most of the stars.

WEATHER

Nashville can be very hot and sticky in the summer so rooms and cars/buses with air conditioning are a wise bet. During the October week the weather can vary quite a lot, but 1983 was nice enough to go swimming in outdoor pools every day. So you need clothes that are mainly for our summer with something a bit warmer for the evenings and to protect you from the rain in the few showers.

THE COSTS

The costs we feel fall into five categories with only two that you can make any substantial savings on. The five categories are: travel, accommodation, car hire, meals and drinks and entertainment. Taking them one at a time 1983 costs were:

TRAVEL: The biggest bill you will have will be your plane flight. It is harder than it used to be to get cheap flights across the Atlantic and there are no direct flights to Nashville. So your choice is either to fly to Atlanta and catch a forwarding flight to Nashville or hire a car in Atlanta and drive there. The distance is about two hundred and fifty miles and the route easy.

If there are four of you sharing a car it may prove cheaper to decide to drive, but generally the on cost for the flight costs very little extra so it is worth it for the forty-minute flight. Return fare if you shop around and book at least three weeks in advance is £370 each, you will be quoted a lot higher and you may have to spend some time on the phone checking with the 'bucket' shops which is the cheaper. One of the problems is that not all airlines fly to Nashville and it is much easier and usually cheaper to book one airline, like Delta, to fly you all the way from England to Nashville as this saves you a lot of time checking in and lugging suitcases around.

At the same time you book your ticket you should also book your medical insurance which will cost you around £20 for two weeks, but it covers you for unlimited medical expenses, cancellation, baggage and other benefits. Again you are advised to shop around and study carefully exactly how much cover you're getting for your money.

ACCOMMODATION

Here is one place where you can make considerable savings as the motel rooms vary from as low as \$14 per night (£10) for two up to £80-plus at the luxurious Opryland Hotel. The cheaper places are really for lorry drivers and the like, but we found that if you shop around and tell them that you intend to make a long

NASHVILLE TOURIST'S GUIDE

stay you can get a good room, a little out of town, quite cheaply. A room for two in nice motels like Shoneys and the Sheraton in the centre of town will cost you around £30/night for two. The Hall Of Fame Motel and Ramadas will be slightly more expensive.

However, we shopped around and found a Hallmark, a nice motel with air conditioning, swimming pool, coloured TV that had everything we wanted and were able to negotiate it for £108 for two for eight days!

A word of warning, however, motel rooms can be difficult to find during the most popular periods and it is probably best to book in advance. So we arrived a few days before the event to do this because we wanted to know what we were booking into.

CAR HIRE

A car is a must. Nashville and the Opryland are about seven miles apart, and practically everything you will want to see will be miles apart. You can hire a car on your own driving licence but it is very difficult to pay unless you have a credit card: Visa, Access or American Express. They will not take cash, even in advance.

The size of car you hire depends on you and the number of your party and your own inclination, but I would advise one with air conditioning. Driving is easy, but remember the 55mph speed limit. Nearly all their cars are automatics which suits us as those with gear shifts have them on the wrong side!

If there are only two of you an 'A' group car will probably be fine as they are small making them easier to manoeuvre and park. The cost will vary and it is favourite to book in advance through Godfrey Davis, Hertz or one of the other big companies in Britain. They should be able to get you a special 'passport' rate. You are advised to get the insurance waiver which means that no matter what damage you might do to the car you will not have to pay any extra. Cost for an 'A' group car with this insurance is around £150/wk.

If there are four of you go for an Economy as they have more boot room for your luggage and are not that much dearer. If you book in advance you will have the car waiting for you at the airport with a tankful of petrol. When you return it they expect the tank to be full, or they will charge you.

Having now got there, hired your car and found your accommodation all you have to do is eat, drink and enjoy yourselves.

EATING

Basically eating out in Nashville is very reasonable, if you go about it sensibly. When you book your motel all you get is your room, no meals are supplied, but if you're a fan of fast food you're in heaven.

Restaurants like Shoneys, Western Sizzlin' and other franchises offer huge choices for breakfast with as much as you can eat for as little as £3/head, including coffee or soft drink.

Their breakfasts do not just consist of eggs, bacon, sausage, fried potatoes, grits, but also hot scones, pancakes with various sauces, plus a great choice of fresh fruits like strawberries, melon, plums, grapes, bananas, etc, etc. So basically you can eat a huge breakfast that will last you until your evening meal.

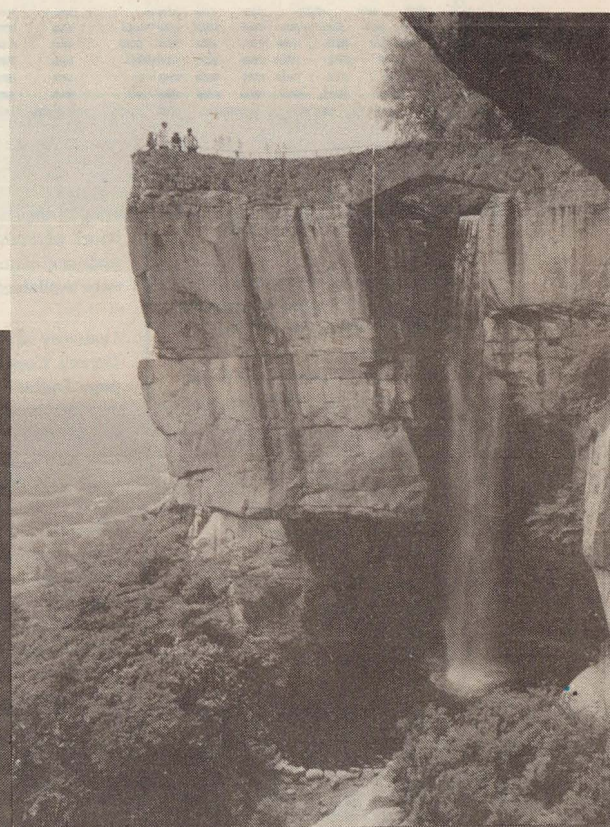
The same type of restaurants offer hamburger, chicken, steak and shrimp meals the rest of the day with salad and fruit bar often included in the price.

But these are not the only restaurants available. There is a huge variety of types and styles and if you wanted to you could pay the earth for a meal, but generally the prices charged at restaurants that serve alcohol are similar to that that would be charged in a similar type of restaurant in London.

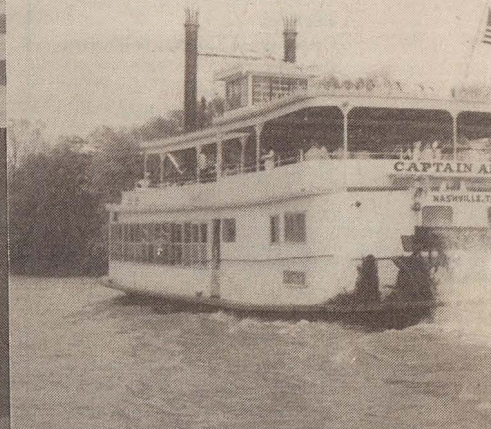
DRINK

The halcyon days of when the dollar was 2.40 to the pound have gone and drinking out is expensive. In a cheap bar downtown where you wouldn't take your lady a small can of lager would cost you 65p, but in the better lounge bars and hotels this would rise to between £1 and £1.50.

Spirits are not quite so extravagant, but cocktails soon push the price up. Beware of 'tabbing' your drinks as it is best to pay as you go so you know what you are spending otherwise a good evening listening to music in a lounge bar can turn out to be very expensive.

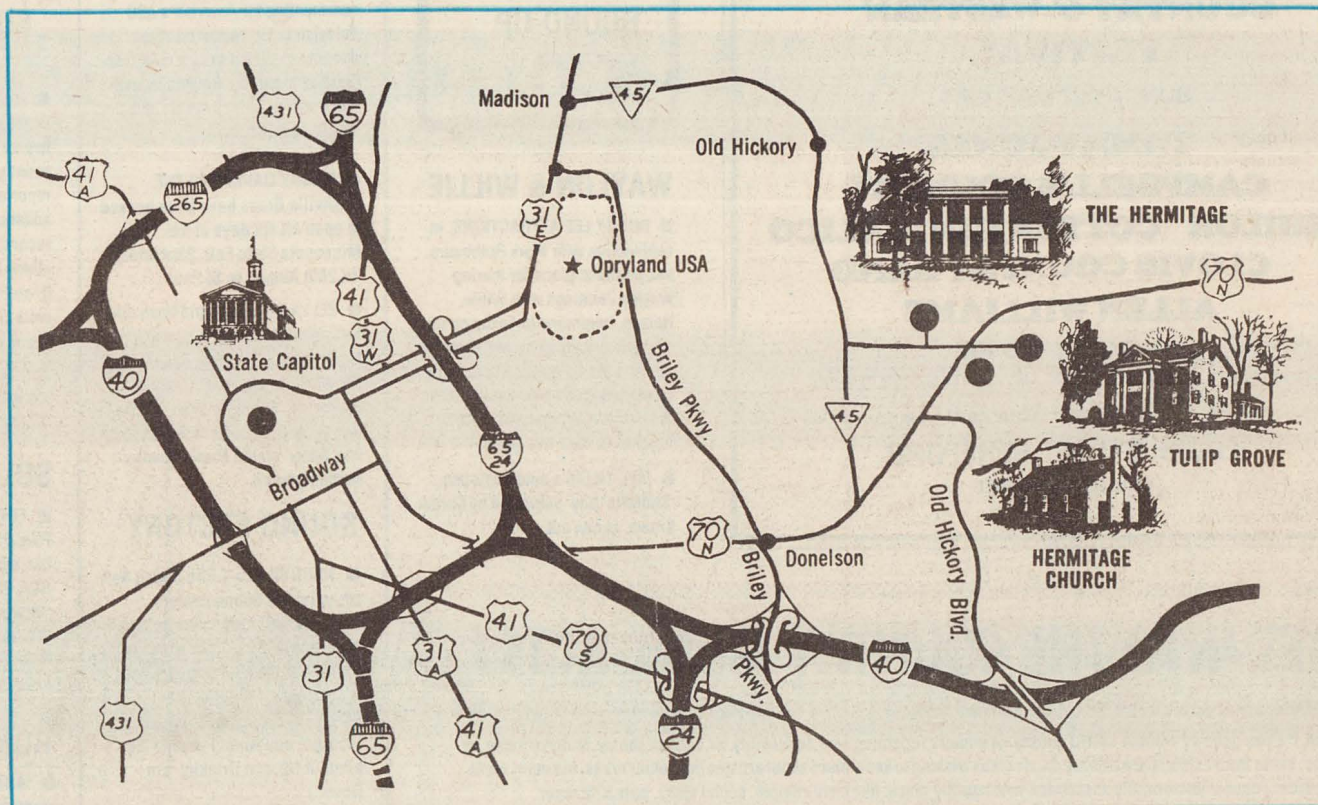


NASHVILLE RIVERBOAT CLUB



**FEATURE AND PICTURES BY
MICK AND PAULINE GREEN**

LE
CRUISES



If you are a person who likes a drink take a bottle of duty free into America with you and drink it in your motel room. All the motels supply you with free ice. Also, if you like a beer pick up some six packs at the supermarket and drink them when relaxing in your room.

ENTERTAINMENT

That is what you've come for and strangely enough it is usually excellent value for, apart from the specialist entertainment venues, many of the lounges have bands or showcases going on until 2am in the morning, and you often see name stars giving impromptu concerts in some lounge or the other if you are lucky.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

It is a must to register for the week, this will cost you around £37/person, but this is typical of what you get for your money:

TUESDAY: Afternoon, Bluegrass concert with all the top names in bluegrass from Bill Monroe downwards! Evening, Grand Ole Opry Dinner. Night, Grand Ole Opry Spectacular with about forty members of the Opry putting on a special show for about three hours.

WEDNESDAY: Morning, RCA Victor Show stars like Charlie Pride and Sylvia plus many more entertainers. Followed by lunch. Afternoon, CBS Show stars Ray Charles and others. Followed by dinner. Evening, CMA Talent Buyers Showcase, fourteen acts that have been in the American Country Charts. A chance to see many acts never to have appeared in the UK.

THURSDAY: Afternoon, MCA Show featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, Lee Greenwood and many more. Refreshments, then the evening show entitled Indigo Music which features another 20-plus acts many of which will be stars known to British country fans.

FRIDAY: Basically a free day, but there are seminars and the CMA annual meeting.

SATURDAY: Daytime, free visit to Opryland Entertainment Park, this normally costs £8. Evening, Grand Ole Opry Show.

SUNDAY: Gospel show with many famous stars.

The tickets also get you free entrance to the Hall Of Fame and a reduction for the famous Opryland brunch. Should you not wish to register you can book for odd shows, but it is the expensive way to do it.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

There are so many forms of entertainment in Nashville it is hard to list them all, but I will try to name some that should interest most people.

OPRYLAND ENTERTAINMENT PARK

Hosts more than a dozen stage productions of all forms of American music and it has twenty major rides as well. All rides and shows are included free for entrance fee, but beware, one or two of them are very wet so wear old clothes and the Wabash Cannonball can be quite frightening as it loops the loop at speeds of up to 50mph. It really takes all day to see all the attractions, but I particularly recommend Sing Tennessee — virtually a full stage musical.

HALL OF FAME: A must for all country fans. Not only packed with information and mementoes of the various stars, but it also includes Elvis' gold Cadillac, the Bandit's car from 'Smokey and the Bandit', films of old stars plus videos and much more.

RCA'S ORIGINAL STUDIO B: See the studio where so many famous songs were recorded. The guides are excellent and you can sit at the piano where Willie wrote songs and play it if you like, plus any of the other instruments. Free if you visit the Hall Of Fame.

RYMAN AUDITORIUM: Home of the Grand Ole Opry for so long. Have your photo taken on the stage where so many of the stars performed. Another must for country freaks and only 65p.

RIVERBOAT CRUISES: From downtown Nashville about £4 for two hours plus on the Cumberland River. Not all that much to see really, but it's relaxing and you get a commentary all the way out and a sing song all the way back.

THE HERMITAGE AND TULIP GROVE: This is the home of General Jackson the man mentioned in the song the 'Battle Of New Orleans' who virtually threw the British out of America and went on to be the seventh President of America. Costs about £1.50.

PRINTERS ALLEY: Centre of Night Club activity and includes the clubs run by Ronnie Prophet and Boots Randolph.

All these plus the House of Cash, Twitty City, Jim Reeves Museum, Cheekwood Gardens, and new attractions opening every year like Celebration '83 and the Marty Robbins Memorial, means that there is plenty to do if you're there for two weeks.

And if you wish to go a bit further Memphis is a day's drive away, or you could visit Kentucky knowing you're going there just as all the leaves are changing colour and it really is beautiful, or, not so far away, a visit to Old Hickory Lake.

THE MUSIC

You will be surrounded by it. All types, all standards from guys in the street playing for money put in their hats to top stars. From dingy bars to luxurious lounge bars. From your car radio and your television set — and a bonus you will be able to see the CMA Awards Show live. Some will thrill you, some will disappoint you, but it will be difficult to ignore it.

MONEY

Obviously you must change up some in advance but American dollar travellers cheques can be changed practically anywhere just like cash.

Credit cards are very handy as they save you carrying large sums of money. Visa and Access (Master Card) are in most large shops, all motels, and large restaurants, but not in the fast food outlets.

The majority of petrol stations take them, and petrol is about half the price of Britain.

CONCLUSION

For a country music fan a visit to Nashville is a dream come true. It is expensive now that the pound is so low against the dollar, but carefully planned it can be a luxury well worth indulging in. So remember a lot of the fun is in planning the trip and that planning can make sure it is a dream holiday and not a nightmare. See you there next October!

OPEN AIR
HEREFORD UNITED FOOTBALL STADIUM
COUNTRY & WESTERN
FESTIVAL
SUNDAY 27 MAY 1984
TAMMY JONES
CAMPBELL'S COUNTRY
SHILOH COTTON GIN CALICO
CLOVIS COUNTRY BAND
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NASHVILLE ROUND-UP

Trisha Walker

WAYLON & WILLIE

● **BUDDY LEE** ATTRACTIONS, in conjunction with Mark Rothbaum, has finalised plans for touring Waylon Jennings with Willie Nelson, beginning in Texas on the 17 April and finishing in California on the 1 May. Fourteen dates will be played, this being the first time Waylon and Willie have toured together in four/five years.

● **MEL TILLIS's** autobiography, 'Stutterin' Boy' published by Curtis Brown, is due out . . .

GET INTO THE COUNTRY MUSIC ACTS !

HARDLY a day goes by without CMRU getting an enquiry regarding acts availability for various shows. Many of these, of course, come from established country music clubs wishing to know more about artistes from other areas, but many more come from venues not normally associated with country music like civic centres, social clubs, parent/teacher associations, all wishing to put on different types of country music shows and special events.

'Round Up' feels it would be useful to compile a directory of all the acts currently available on the British country scene from pro to semi-pro, contemporary to traditional, etc., solo, duo, group. We realise that one such list already exists within the BCMA Year Book but all too often the person making the enquiry wants a certain type of music or entertainment details not fully available from that source. So, as a service to all actively involved in the British scene we intend to print a form for the acts to fill in and return to us for compilation. If you do not wish to mutilate your copy of 'Round Up', copy the relative information onto plain paper or photocopy our form, but make sure you send the full information.

It is our intention to keep the list as up to date as possible and note any comments made regarding the acts by our regional correspondents and provided enough interest is forthcoming, we will make the whole list available in booklet form. We can only make the list up with your help and all too often in the past British country music acts could obtain degrees in apathy when it comes to advertising themselves — don't let this happen to you.

If your support is forthcoming we will also try to cover the whole list in the editorial columns of this paper. So now it is up to you.

ANOTHER 'FREE' SERVICE FROM 'COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP' TO THE BRITISH COUNTRY MUSIC SCENE

NAME OF ACT:	
NAMES OF PERSONNEL:	INSTRUMENTS PLAYED:
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	
PRO OR SEMI-PRO:	
AREAS PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO:	
.....	
TYPES OF MUSIC PLAYED: (i.e. middle-of-the-road/crossover/western swing/bluegrass/square dance calling/comedy situations).....	
IF SOLO OR DUO, IS ACT SELF-CONTAINED?	☐ YES ☐ NO
TYPE OF AUDIENCE SUITABLE FOR: (dance/club/concert/cabaret or any speciality)	
.....	
IS STAGE DRESS WORN OR NOT?	
IS ORIGINAL MATERIAL PRESENTED?	
HAS THE ACT TV/RADIO EXPERIENCE, AND IF SO WHICH STATION?	
.....	
IS THE ACT A MEMBER OF MUSICIAN UNION AND/OR EQUITY	
HAS THE ACT ALBUMS/CASSETTES/SINGLES AVAILABLE, IF SO WHAT LABEL?	
.....	
NAME OF AGENT OR PERSON TO CONTACT FOR BOOKING (Give full address and telephone number):	
.....	
.....	
ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE RELEVANT:	
.....	
.....	
.....	

Please return to: 'CMRU' Artiste Directory, c/o Mick Green 11 King Harolds Way, BEXLEYHEATH, Kent, DA7 5QU

● **WE** note that John Denver was in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, for the Winter Olympics this year, commenting for America's ABC Television. He appeared at the opening gala and sang a new song entitled 'Gold And Beyond' which was not dissimilar from his classic 'Eagle And The Hawk'.

● **DANNY DAVIS** AND THE Nashville Brass have been booked to open all six days at the Minnesota State Fair, 23rd through 'til 28th August in St Paul.

● **ZELLA LEHR** flew into Nashville last month to record a new album for Compleat Records. Based in Nevada, she also took time out to appear on 'Nashville Now' on the Nashville Network and the 'Bennie Ray Show' on the Music Country Radio Network.

SOUND FACTORY

● **NASHVILLE** — Phil Baugh has re-activated Sound Factory Records which was very active in 1980 and 1981 with releases from Sammi Smith ('Cheatin' A Two Way Street' and 'Sometimes I Cry When I'm Alone', both top 40 records) and Allen Frizzell ('She's Livin' It Up, I'm Drinkin' 'Em Down').

Since that time, Baugh has opened Hot Licks Studio (formerly the Marty Robbins Studio), completely remodelled the facility, and has been busy building the reputation of the new studio.

Baugh himself is one of the most in-demand session musicians in Nashville, having played on recordings by Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Ray Charles, Johnny Paycheck, Johnny Duncan, Janie Fricke, and numerous others.

In recent weeks, activity at Hot Licks Studio has included The Kendalls, Tony Joe White, Jack Greene, Gene Watson, Michael Martin Murphey, Johnny Rodriguez, Leon Everette, Gus Hardin, Jim Glaser, The Four Guys, Moe Bandy, Mel McDaniel and Lee Greenwood, all working on the television tracks for The Nashville Network's new show, 'New Country'.

● **JOHNNY PAYCHECK** toured military bases in Germany during March, followed later by the charming Penny DeHaven. John Anderson is due in Germany for a concert tour this month.

GEORGE STRAIT IN TOWN

● **GEORGE STRAIT** made one of his rare visits to Nashville last month to record a brand new album for MCA Records, scheduled for release around August. Together with producer Ray Baker, George feels that this will be as strong as his last album, 'Right Or Wrong' which made No 1 in the charts. While in the studio, George was filmed for 'This Week In Country Music' and also took time out to sing a song with friend Johnny Rodriguez at Bogeys

● **DAVE DUDLEY**, The Trucking King, will be back in Europe in September to film another television special. And 'just for the record', almost all West Germany's record companies have released at least one Dave Dudley record in the last three years.

WINNER!

● **HOT** off the mark for our undeliberate mistake last month was Chris Wright from Lancaster. A Hank Snow LP is on its way Chris. The mistake was the block heading in the Wembley supplement which read 'The Fifteenth Festival' instead of the sixteenth. Our apologies to all concerned.

DRAKE BRINGS NASHVILLE TO SOUTH AFRICAN STUDIO

● **NASHVILLE** — Producer Pete Drake recently brought together twelve of South Africa's top country artistes for an album that reportedly generated 80,000 advance orders while still being recorded. 'It was the first platinum album I ever had before I mixed it,' Drake notes, adding that 50,000 units constitute platinum in that country.

The album, backed by Carling's Black Label Beer, is called 'Carling's Country Collection.'

SOLO WITH RCA

● **FORMER** lead vocalist with Pure Prairie League, Vince Gill, has signed a record contract with RCA. His debut single will be 'Victim Of Life's Circumstances' followed by the release of one of RCA's innovative mini-LP series entitled 'Turn Me Loose'.

RONNIE MILSAP

● 'AS to success, it was more fun working to get there than it is being there', Ronnie Milsap once said in an interview. Well Ronnie Milsap is there now, and heavily involved in business commitments. 'Some artistes are content with performing, touring, or merely making hit records in the studio, but not Ronnie Milsap. He enjoys the business challenges of his career as much as the creative,' stated Kip Kirby in 'Billboard'.

For a start, he has cut his links with the Dick Blake agency and started his own Headline International Talent which now handles his concert and television appearances. Among HIT's clients are Bandana and Jerry Reed. And in the first nine months of operation, Miss Kirby tells us, the agency handled \$2 million in bookings.

Secondly Milsap is now heavily into publishing and one of Milsap Music Group's star signings is songwriter Mike Read who has notched up hits for Ronnie with 'Inside' and his most recent No 1 hit, 'Show Her', as well as 'I Never Quite Got Back From Loving You' for Sylvia, which was co-written with Don Pfrimmer.

Ronnie has been working long hours in his forty-eight state-of-art recording tudio, Groundstar, with producer Ron Galbraith for a new album for RCA.

Ronnie also recently recorded a duet for the first time in his career. He has teamed up with Barry Manilow and released a single, 'Put A Quarter In The Jukebox', which can be found on Manilow's 'Greatest Hits' LP on the Arista label.

The latest hot news from Nashville is that Ronnie will bring his eight-piece group for a concert tour of Italy, Holland, Britain and West Germany in October.

NASHVILLE FALLS FOR CAROL

● **Canadian** Country songsters Carroll Baker gained a standing ovation when she appeared on the Talent Buyers' Showcase at Cajun Wharf in Nashville. According to 'Country Music News' (Canada) Charlie Louvin, who was in the audience, fell in love with her performance, claiming she was the best he had seen in the past ten years, and that she was the first female singer in a long time to bring tears to his eyes. She also did a TV guest spot on the Tommy Hunter Show with fellow guest Pat Boone.

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ROUND UP THE STATESIDE SCENE

COUNTRY MUSIC ROUND UP

May 1984



ALABAMA JAM SET FOR JUNE 9

● NASHVILLE — Alabama's third annual June Jam will be held in Fort Payne, Ala., June 9. The RCA group headline the show, which will also feature performances by Janie Fricke and Lee Greenwood.

Last year's festival drew a record crowd of 37,684 people from more than thirty states and from several other countries. The entire net proceeds, amounting to about \$400,000, were distributed to more than one hundred non-profit organisations in DeKalb County, where the four members of Alabama still live.

Tickets for the upcoming event are available by mail through the Alabama Fan Club, Dept. JJ, Box 529, Fort Payne, Ala. 35967. Tickets are \$15 each, and only 40,000 will be sold.

NEW SINGLE

● BECKY HOBBS' first single for EMI America/Liberty Records, 'Oklahoma Heart', made its debut 3 April on the Music Country Network hosted by Charlie Douglas. Hobbs performed the song for the first time on television when she was guest on 'Nashville Now'.

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● MERLE HAGGARD tops the list of nominees for the Academy of Country Music's Hat Awards, with a total of five to his credit. Alabama, John Anderson, and Willie Nelson each have four nominations: Barbara Mandrell, The Oak Ridge Boys, Lee Greenwood and Ricky Skaggs have two a piece. The show, to be carried by NBC-TV May 14, will be hosted by Mac Davis, Crystal Gayle and Charley Pride.

● Loretta Lynn worked her first dates of the year for Harrahs on a thirty-three date contract, April 20-26.

● Didja' know... while Janie Fricke is busy designing clothes, the new line of women's wear, hubby Randy Jackson is designing a line of men's luggage? Both will be marketed through the Dallas Apparel Mart.

● George Jones' biography, 'Ragged But Right' (subtitled 'The Life And Times Of George Jones') written by Dolly Carlisle, will be published this month by Contemporary Books. The same Chicago-based company, by the way, which published Loretta Lynn's 'Coal Miner's Daughter' in 1976.

● Grand Ol' Opry bested 'SOAP' stars in a five-day stint on the popular Family Feud TV'er in March. Bill Anderson, Boxcar Willie, Minnie Pearl, Porter Wagoner and Dottie West, playing for the Opry Trust Fund, brought home a total of \$23,440. Representing the Soaps were Ruth Warrick, Steve Fletcher, Perry Stephens, Jacklyn Zeman and John Gabriel.

● Johnny Cash guests on Bob Hope's 81st birthday special this month direct from New Orleans' Louisiana World Exposition.

● Lacy J Dalton has been selected as Dr Pepper's new spokesperson for an upcoming ad campaign. She will be featured in a series of thirty and sixty second spots.

● The 17th Annual International Fan Club Organisation show, upcoming on 8 June at the Tennessee State Fair Grounds in Nashville, promises to uphold its tradition of being one of Fan Fair's finest in its new Friday night time slot. The Oak Ridge Boys will headline, with Gary Morris in the featured role, plus Loretta Lynn, Darrel Clanton, Razy Bailey and more to be announced.

● Didja' know... Susie Allanson has been travelling with the Engelbert Humperdinck show, doing backup vocals, the past few months?

● Leon Everette & Hurricane blew up another storm in Florida recently. High winds completely destroyed the tent just before their performance was to begin at the St Lucie Fairgrounds. Authorities had to close the fair down 'til the next day. Leon has been back in the studio for additional taping for the Mellow Yellow radio spots, too.

ARTISTES ON THE MOVE: Sierra to Shorty Lavender Talent Agency. Karen Wheeler and Carlton Showband (Canada) to Tessier Talent in Madison, Tn. Little David Wilkins and Bandana to Board Brothers Talent. Dave Dudley and Dave Rogers to Tessier Talent. Bill Anderson to World Class Talent. Jimmy C Newman to Nashville Unltd. Bertie Higgins and the Steppe Brothers to Board Brothers

Talent. Jeanne Pruett to Top Billing Intl. Donna Fargo to International Celebrity Services. Joy Ford and Timothy Thomas to Bo-Jac Talent. Stella Parton to Tessier Talent.

● Shaun Nielsen, featured vocalist in the touring/recording career of Elvis Presley, is now a featured vocalist with the Glaser Brothers.

● Sylvia recently married Tom Rutledge, a guitarist in her band who also worked for Dolly Parton for a number of years. A summer wedding is planned for Charly McClain and Wayne Massey, host of TNN's Nashville After Hours.

● Didja' know... In the 1940's and '50's, Gene Autry drew more fan mail than even Clark Gable or Shirley Temple.

● Ray Price has followed fellow-Texan, Jimmy Dean into the sausage business. Price's Cherokee Farms Sausage is now on grocers' shelves in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with expansion plans now on the drawing boards.

● Hoyt Axton is winding up work on the movie 'Gremlins', and will be doing some concert tours later this month, including some private appearances for BUSCH Beer.

● Joe Poovey and Lois Frizzell (daughter of Hall of Famer, Lefty Frizzell) are currently touring with the Bobby Helms Show.

● On the heels of the success of his initial food drive effort begun in Long Beach, CA., in January, Kenny Rogers will launch a series of local food drives across the US at all of his 1984 concert appearances. The food drives are collection efforts in which Rogers appeals to his concertgoers to bring a donation of canned food to the show. The food is collected and subsequently distributed through local hunger relief agencies. The appeal is specifically for canned fish or meat, the high protein substances most difficult for the undernourished to procure.

● Ronnie Milsap working on rock-orientated album for spring release?

● Willie Nelson has garnered his 16th RIAA gold album with 'Without A Song'. Lee Greenwood has earned his first with 'Somebody's Gonna Love You'.

● John Denver is embarking on a 50-city solo tour, in which he provides all of his own accompaniment on three guitars and a grand piano.

● Main Street Records, distributed by MCA, is staging a sales and marketing campaign for its four-album Boxcar Willie Catalogue. All but the current LP were previously released under Main Street's distribution agreement with Capitol.

● Hank Williams Jr leaves for his first 'Down Under' tour on 1 May. Accompanying him to Australia will be Dickie Betts, Merle Kilgore and the Bama Band.

● Plans for the eighth annual Jamboree in the Hills are underway. Appearing on the shows 14-15 July will be the Oak Ridge Boys, Merle Haggard, Mickey Gilley, Eddie Rabbitt, Don Williams, Janie Fricke, Johnny Rodriguez, Mel Tillis, Moe Bandy, Tanya Tucker, Earl Thomas Conley, Steve Wariner, Gary Morris, Reba McEntire, John



● Hoyt Axton completes work on the movie 'Gremlins'



● Lacy J Dalton, Dr Pepper's new spokesperson



● Stella Parton moves to Tessier Talent for bookings

Hartford, Bandana, Mundo Earwood, and Kippi Brannon. Tickets are available by calling 1-800-624-5456.

● Bill Anderson was in California the last week of March to tape Match Game and Hollywood Squares. He also reports they are working on their second one-hundred PO Folks restaurants. The 100th was opened in Davie, FL, on 22 February.

● Chris LeDoux has spent many winter hours (on his Wyoming ranch) completing two new sculptures and making great progress on a third. Joachim Neubauer has just released another of Chris' albums under the Siegle Music banner in Germany.

● Earl Thomas Conley is currently working on a new album for which he co-wrote seven songs with Randy Scruggs. He has also finished taping a new video for his next single, 'Angel In Disguise'. It should be on the airwaves by the end of the month.

● James Faye 'Roy' Hill, 61 died of a heart attack 2 March in Nashville. A country/rockabilly performer, songwriter and fan

magazine publisher, his best known composition was 'Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On', which he co-wrote under the name Sonny David and recorded for Decca in 1955, two years before Jerry Lee Lewis had a hit with it.

● Paul Francis Webster, 76, Academy Award-winning lyricist, died 22 March in Beverly Hills. Webster's Hollywood career started in 1935, with lyrics credits including a number of top films: 'Giant', 'The Alamo' and more. 'Secret Love', 'Love Is A Many Splendored Thing' and 'April Love' were among his hits.

● Roy Clark has changed the format of his nine-year-old golf tournament. It will now be known as the Roy Clark Seniors PGA Tour Challenge. Beginning 11 June in Tulsa, the week-long event will feature fifty-two of the nation's top seniors, vying for a \$200,000 purse. On 14 June the Star Night Concert will, as is its tradition, end the tournament.

● David Frizzell will appear in a recurring role in the WTBS-TV daytime soap 'The Catlins'. His first segments have already started to run.

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THU MAY 24	REGAL CINEMA, SALTCOATS
FRI MAY 25	CORONATION HALL, ULVERSTON
SAT MAY 26	ARTS CENTRE, ABERDEEN
SUN MAY 27	TOWN HALL, ELGIN
MON MAY 28	WHITEHALL THEATRE, DUNDEE
TUE MAY 29	QUEENS HALL, EDINBURGH
WED MAY 30	RIALTO, LONDONDERRY
THU MAY 31	SPA THEATRE, BRIDLINGTON

For further information contact Jane Fraser. Tel (0899) 20665
(All dates subject to change and cancellation)

RIDERS IN THE SKY

● THE announcement last month said: 'Riders In The Sky is an acoustic trio specialising in cowboy music — not old, authentic cowboy songs, mind you, but the kind of western music once brought to us on the silver screen. Singing cowboy movie music, in other words.'

Since then we have had many readers enquiring for more details on this somewhat unique trio.

● It was just over half-a-decade ago that the first edition of Riders In The Sky was born. According to Doug Green, leader spokesman of the group, 'the response was really something, especially for a kind of music that some people considered so esoteric. The response was surprising and it made me want to continue, made us all want to get serious about it.'

'In a way, I shouldn't have been so surprised,' Green said. 'I mean, I've always loved the music, and I consider myself no different from the average guy. So why shouldn't others like it? It evokes my childhood to me, and it obviously does the same for a lot of other people. Western music has the advantage of not being a regionalised form, see, all of us, in all parts of the country grew up with those movies and that music.'

● The other two members of the group also have interesting backgrounds. Fiddler Woody Paul, from Triune, Tennessee, has a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from MIT, but decided to get into music full time after playing his fiddle in a Boston park. Seems people started throwing money in his instrument case and that was that. He later worked with country singer Wilma Lee Cooper and with rock musicians Loggins and Messina.

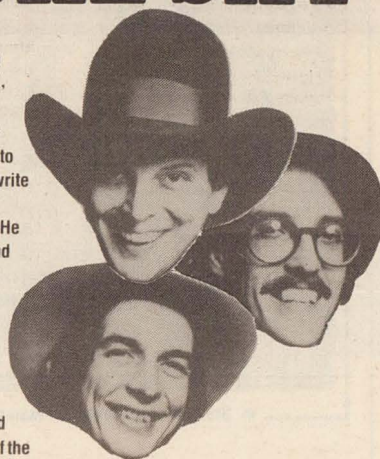
● Fred LaBour, from western Michigan, was a 'class clown', according to Green, 'and is responsible for 75-80% of the humour we do'. LaBour came to Nashville in the early '70's to write songs and had his first effort recorded by Tammy Wynette. He later played with Dicky Lee and originally impressed Green because 'he knew who Al Kaline was!'

● Doug Green gives a lot of credit for inspiration to the late Bob Nolan, leader and main songwriter of the Sons of the Pioneers. 'I know he influenced my writing a great deal. You know, most people don't realise what a great writer Bob was, but he stretched the boundaries in songwriting — all of them, melodically, lyrically, you name it. The chords he used were so advanced for their era — plus, of course, he took the subject matter out further than just the honky-tonks or the cabins in the mountains.'

● Not long before his death, Nolan wrote the liner notes for the first Riders In The Sky album and gave them his enthusiastic and heartfelt stamp of approval.

● Later, on a California tour, Nolan's widow came to see the Riders, an event Green remembers quite clearly. 'We encored with two of Bob's songs — 'Tumbling Tumbleweeds' and 'On the Rhythm Range' — and when it was over, she was just speechless. Very, very moved. She didn't say a word, just gave me a big hug. It was the best moment of my musical career.'

● Green is optimistic about the future and thinks the time is right



for a resurgence of this kind of music.

'Well, Gene Autry began his career in the Depression,' he said. 'And maybe that will apply to us as well. In periods of economic distress, maybe the cowboy image should surface again. He's our purest and best symbol of freedom and self-reliance, and I don't think that image is going to go away. Ever!'

● Well, the British fan has a chance to find out this month as they make their first UK theatre venue tour.

Details on Riders In The Sky provided courtesy of specialist services.

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**COUNTRY
WORDSEARCH****JUST FOR
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This month we thought it might be interesting to wander through the Hall of Fame. Thirty-nine inductees are included in the graph below reading left to right, right to left, up or down and diagonal either way.

S	E	N	O	J	A	P	D	N	A	R	G	S	N	I	K	T	A	T	E	H	C	J	P	I
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T	M	U	M	R	H	R	O	S	N	I	B	B	O	R	Y	T	R	A	M	P	U	E	X	
R	S	R	A	M	I	N	G	E	N	K	V	C	Z	L	Y	T	E	T	R	E	X	B	O	F
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A	H	O	D	O	X	Y	M	Z	I	O	K	I	E	P	L	N	S	E	O	P	D	L	M	V
D	S	R	A	D	T	V	H	C	D	E	U	R	P	H	X	O	V	A	D	E	E	Q	L	I
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V	A	R	O	V	N	R	E	S	E	A	W	E	A	E	I	R	E	U	S	P	R	D	Q	A
Y	F	E	H	D	T	E	V	Y	L	T	I	G	D	Z	D	F	O	D	X	N	A	D	E	H
C	R	H	N	M	T	M	E	J	T	S	Z	E	Z	A	O	R	K	Y	R	P	O	L	B	D
X	E	T	B	Y	U	V	S	Z	T	Y	U	E	T	W	V	A	S	S	A	O	R	S	K	E
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E	R	S	H	A	N	K	W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S	J	K	S	Y	M	L	U	E	A	R
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S	D	A	C	A	C	H	E	P	W	E	F	B	X	T	U	G	Y	N	R	J	V	O	E	G
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S	E	L	O	H	S	N	E	H	P	E	T	S	B	B	U	T	T	S	E	N	R	E	J	Y

**COUNTRY
MUSIC Round Up**
JUST FOR FUN

Compiled by Tony Anderson

The names hidden are:—

Roy Acuff
Eddy ArnoldChet Atkins
Gene Autry
Owen Bradley
Johnny Cash
Carter FamilyPatsy Cline
Paul Cohen
Vernon Dalhart
Jimmie Davis
Little Jimmy Dickens
James R Denny
Lefty Frizzell
Red Foley
Joe Frank
Connie B Gay
George D Hay
Roy Horton
Grandpa Jones
Frank Pee Wee King
Uncle Dave Macon
Bill MonroeMinnie Pearl
Marty Robbins
Jim Reeves
Tex Ritter
Jimmie Rodgers
Fred Rose
Art Satherley
Stephen Sholes
Sons Of The Pioneers
Hank Snow
Grant Turner
Merle Travis
Ernest Tubb
Hank Williams
Bob Wills
Kitty Wells

● COUNTRY band Poacher took their hats off to success when they recently met Shamu, the two-ton killer whale star attraction at Sea World of Orlando, Florida.

Poacher provided the entertainment during a party evening held at the Manchester Piccadilly Hotel and hosted by the Florida Division of Tourism, Jelsave and Sea World, the world's largest marine life theme park and one of Florida's major attractions.

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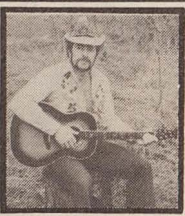
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MORE YOUR LINE OF COUNTRY

Dear Eds

How pleased I am to see Mick Green once again giving forth in your hallowed columns. The last time we personally met was under a demon Northern beer cloud at Lesnes Abbey, and the later festivities were somewhat of a blur!

At last someone has the strength to set out why the so-called British country music scene has collapsed. Those with their head in the sand will no doubt protest loudly that it hasn't happened, but the facts show it has. When our premier country drummer finds it more financially secure to work on a building site than go gigging then that is proof enough.

Mick does not go as far as allocating blame for this sad state of affairs, so I will do it for him. It is the so-called fans who are to blame by their continuing bickering about what is, or is not, country, by their not paying out a reasonable door fee, by refusing to travel more than a short distance to go to clubs, and by refusing to widen the boundaries of the music to attract younger people.

The next time you go to a club, just assess the average age of the people there, I'll bet it's middle age and over, with hardly any young ones there, only those forced by their parents. What happens when these people no longer go to the clubs — right — no one to continue the music.

Obviously asking a leopard to change its spots is virtually impossible, but fans must change their attitudes now, because it is almost too late to reverse the decline. Younger fans will only be attracted by the likes of David Allan Coe, Joe Sun, Eddie Rabbitt, even our own Roger Humphries, and the more rock-based performers. They wouldn't get out of bed for Sidney Devine, Don Williams, or Charley Pride.

I look forward to further spot on, hard hitting articles from Mick, instead of the usual stuff that pretends that everything is fine in the country garden.

Sincerely
Brian Bullock
The Roger Humphries Movement
3 Newarp Way
Caister-On-Sea
GREAT YARMOUTH



Dear Mick

After reading your 'Controversy Country' report in April's edition of 'CMRU' I feel I must answer at least one of your questions (i.e. (2) Promoters must accept that all acts are entitled to a decent fee!)

I would be one of the first to agree with you on this, but have you seriously thought about what you have written? Alternatively, let me ask you another question: have you ever promoted country music yourself?

I mean to the point of organising a weekly, fortnightly, or even monthly club, where you have to put on acts that may be very well known in one part of the country, but people may not have seen them in another part? Well, if you haven't, let me tell you the problems of trying to promote country music, trying to tell people 'I know they're a good band!' In this day of so much unemployment, first and foremost you have to try and keep the door price reasonable so that they, the public, can afford to come out anyway. Secondly, I have found time and time again that if

people haven't been lucky enough to see a certain band that you, the promoter, has decided to take a chance on and put on at your club, they, the public, won't turn up anyway, and when you ask them the next week where they were, they reply: 'We've never seen them!' I, myself can't understand the true logic of that one, but it is problem number (1).

I charge £1.20 at the door and if I bring in an out of town band, I put the door price to £1.50. You would be amazed at how many people take a look at the increase of 30p and get back in their cars! That's problem number (2).

Top class bands who have to travel a certain distance will not do it for a one off at a fee that is sensible to your club budget, unless you can get them at least one more booking in your area. If you get them a booking you end up losing some of your customers anyway because they have realised the other booking you have got them is not so far for them to travel! So, they choose which night they are going out. That is problem number (3).

So you are forced with the questions: do I employ an out of town band who are a pro band expecting a high fee and put the door price up accordingly; or, do I put on a band the people haven't seen anyway and probably won't come and see because they haven't seen them; or, do I put on a band I can charge a sensible door price for, and at the same time will pull the people in?

I know the cost of petrol and how much a band earn when they've spent travelling expenses and I am grateful to them, and any professional bands who think they can afford to play my club at a sensible price — I will always take a chance and book them. So Mick, may I suggest you think hard before you put pen to paper, because there's a lot of hard working club promoters like me who would love to see some sensible solution to it all, perhaps we should write to the Arabs.

Derek O'Halloran
Wolverhampton CMC
The Hollybush
Penn Road
WOLVERHAMPTON
WV5 9EL



Dear Editor

Rarely have I read anything that I agree with more than Mick Green's 'Controversy Country'. It is surely time for more coverage was given to the sterility of the industry.

Ever since I became engrossed in country music (which is well over a decade ago), I have winced at the comments about what is or is not country music, and I have never been able to understand this resistance to change within the country sphere. But there must be thousands of fans like me who believe Jimmy Rodgers, Hank & Autry etc were garbage (and certainly what I have heard of their material, I cannot change my mind of that.) Why is it so wrong for someone like me to like D.A.C. or Waylon, Hag, or Alabama, and Bare and simply detest the schmuck of yesteryear? Why should I have Hank and Lefty rammed down my throat and why should I have to be associated with those ludicrously attired Tom Mix lookalikes who probably have little or no knowledge of the music

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anyway, but get it ridiculed to such an extent by the media that non-gun-totin', gunfighting fans like me are almost too embarrassed to admit being associated with the music? How can you attract new fans to the music if you cannot overcome the embarrassment of these pre-senile dements? How can you recommend a country programme to anyone when you know that 50% of it will be 'All Our Yesterdays' stuff?

My local radio which had an excellent modern start recently, through a listeners phone in, saw Jim Reeves being hailed as the favourite artiste in 'Tay Territory'. How could anyone approach a programme controller and ask for more air-time for country music, to play music from artistes many of whom have been dead twenty years or more? If you were director of a major record company would you bother sending country albums to all the radio stations? If the jock likes it then it might get several plays, but if not one!

Another point I would make is — why is it that over 90% of all country radio programmes deal with requests. Can the DJ's not select material for fear of the wrath of the listeners?

I would also like to compare the British scene to that of Eire. They too are experiencing a national recession far worse than the UK, but their music scene has stayed reasonably healthy. Many country artistes there are considered to be major stars, Philomena, Susan McCann, Foster and Allen, Red Hurley, Roly Daniels, Big Tom etc etc and although many of our so called top entertainers tend to sneer at their Irish counterparts, they could learn a lot from the scene. The radio for a start plays vast quantities of their home grown material and tracks from imported or deleted albums are the exception rather than the rule. Bands have gone out and spent their own money producing a quality product realising the old adage, 'one has to speculate to accumulate', and although some bands have done that here — most want to make the records at some sponsors expense

and sell them at profit. Some Irish bands I know, however, have made several singles purely for promotional purposes in the hope that eventually one of them will make the grade. It is relatively inexpensive to do this and of course if they happen on a song which is attracting airplay, then sponsors are not too difficult to find.

Another facet of the Irish which I admire is the individuality of their bands. No US mimicry here and their sets contain variety, although again their acts change dramatically when they visit here because of the demand. The thing that strikes you as odd in Eire just as Mick Green says about the USA, is the amount of young people involved in the music.

Although I agree with the criticism in his article of the specialist press, I feel he should have made suggestions for more specific criticism. For instance, is it fair that a national publication ('CMRU') should produce seven pages or more of regional news, most of which is back slapping of one kind or another! Surely the ideal here would be to delete it from the paper altogether and do a region by region supplement; if, indeed, this news is necessary.

Lastly, I am surprised that no talk has ever existed of a country radio station. As a lad I could only listen

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to pop through Luxembourg and a couple of pirate stations — it eventually led to the improved situation we have today. What chance then has some enterprising soul setting up such a venture on country music — if their programmes can attract good audiences at obscure times and peak TV times surely a national twenty-four hour country radio is bound to take a trick?

Yours sincerely
Bill Stott
16 Ashton Terrace
Strathmartine
DUNDEE
DD3 0PQ

Eds: Them's nearly fightin' words Bill!!! Come on, take a leaf out of your own book (letter) and 'live and let live'! Regarding the regional reports we can tell you that there is still a good demand for them. But we agree, there's always room for thought, however, your suggestions currently don't make economic sense.

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TONY GOODACRE ROADSHOW

● TONY GOODACRE, along with his session band and Printers Alley plus the Jeannie Dee Duo, undertakes a ten day tour in May. Dates are as follows: May 4 Assembly Hall, Barking; 5 Cranleigh Village Hall; 6 Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds; 7 Pontin's Prestatyn Sand Village, North Wales; 8 The Quarter Deck, Milford Haven; 10 Beau Sejour Theatre, St Peter Port, Guernsey; 11 New Hall, Tiverton; 12 Abergavenny Leisure Centre; 13 Honiton British Legion club.

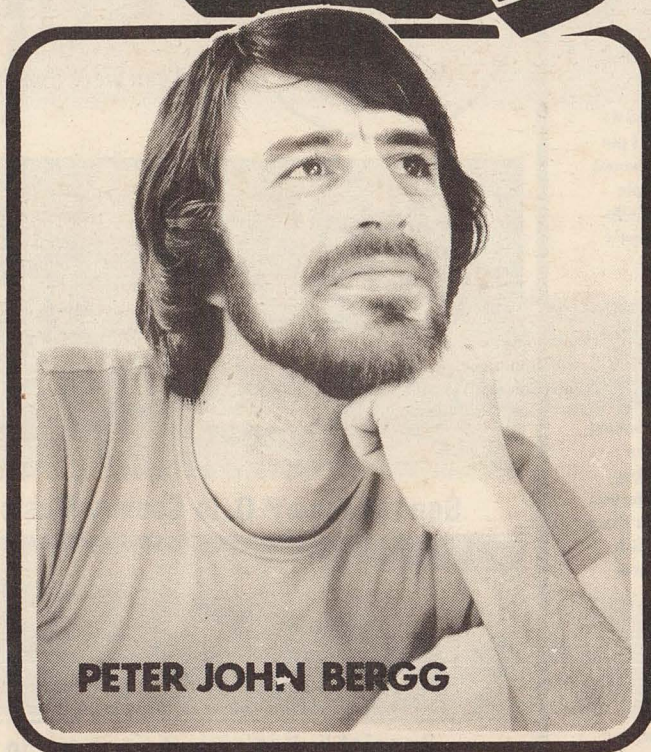
On Saturday 26 May Tony stars in his own show at the Royal Hall in Harrogate with all his roadshow team plus special guests the Duffy Brothers.

DJ CONVENTION FOR UK

● TEXAN Billy Walker hosts the first British Country Music Disc Jockey and Fan Convention from 29 September to 6 October this year at Primrose Valley near Filey in Yorkshire. Full details from Leisure Holidays, 25 St Stephen's Chambers, Bank Court, Hemel Hempstead.

IN THE STUDIO COUNTRY MUSIC

RADIO TEES



PETER JOHN BERGG

● WHEN we wrote to Peter for some biographical details this is what he sent us:—

I'm married with three children, one grandchild, a cat and a Red Setter. Born in Southampton (I still support the Saints) round about 1944 (which makes him pretty old — 10 July if you want to send him a present!)

Peter has a BA with honours obtained at York University (I think he told us he got it for being first in the queue). He is currently the Features Editor at Radio Tees, which, he says, means he works hard all week and then he relaxes to the sound of country music on Sundays.

In his youth he informs us he sang with the Southern Region Opera Company (operating out of Southampton) but now prefers to leave the singing to those more able.

Peter says he still likes classical music alongside his country, and he plays classical guitar for his own enjoyment only.

Despite the rumour his name is real (it's on his birth certificate) and he believes it's Scandinavian. He currently lives in Newton Aycliffe, which is a new town in the North East, but his parents still

reside in Southampton. Peter says, 'It's a long way to commute,' we say that because he indicates a secret desire to move back to the South one day. Peter John Bergg still regards broadcasting as fun and hates people to take him too seriously when he's 'on the air', particularly on his 'Country Tracks' programme. Country music is fun (in the main, he says) and it should be presented in a lighthearted manner. Peter is fond of malaprops, mixed metaphors and a hundred and one other mistakes, including, he says, himself!

COUNTRY TRACKS

Each week his programme currently features hour long profiles devoted to leading country artists (including a look at their music) which is written by established North East country music journalist Larry Drummond.

So far the schedule for this is as follows:

8 April	David Allan Coe
14	Lacy J Dalton
22	Guy Clark
29	John Prine
6 May	Crystal Gayle
13	Waylon Jennings
20	Dolly Parton

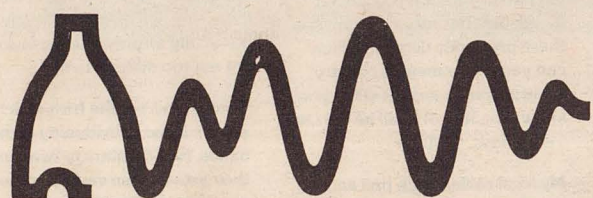
27	Kris Kristofferson
3 June	Steve Young
10	Alabama
17	Marshall Chapman
24	Willie Nelson
1 July	Hank Williams Jr

Peter tells us he will be talking on the 'phone each week to an important person in the UK country music industry including: Cindy Leu (newly appointed London office manager of the Country Music Association), Colin Kettle (Editor of 'Country Music Round Up', the UK's best selling country music newspaper), Tony Byworth (co-partner in Byworth-Wootton International, country music news organisation), Mervyn Conn (promoter of the Silk Cut Festival at Wembley), and others.

Peter also plans to have a local guest on the programme each week, lined up are Paul Wheeler (country music artiste), Frank Feeney (country music promoter), Ken and Billy Ford (country music artistes) etc, plus experts in various country music fields appearing from time to time.

'Country Tracks' will also be travelling out to the local clubs and will be recording concerts at various venues. This includes the Joe Sun concert at Dorman's Athletic Club, Oxford Road, Middlesbrough on 3 May.

IN THE STUDIO COUNTRY MUSIC



BBC Radio Stoke COLIN CRITCHLOW

● COLIN CRITCHLOW hails from Flash in North Staffordshire, the highest village in England. Educated at St Edwards School in Leek, and Stoke-on-Trent College of Building. The high spot being the Royal Military Academy — Sandhurst.

Born in 1946, married for nearly eighteen years, Colin has three adopted and one foster child (two boys and two girls).

At the day job, Colin is the Construction Contracts Manager for a large building company. His hobbies consist of American Square Dancing and Calling and naturally, anything connected with

country music, stamp collecting and 'Stand by your beds', he's an Officer in the Territorial Army.

His favourite artistes are many, but high on the list is Crystal Gayle, Bill Anderson, Gene Watson, Roy Drusky, the Carter Family and Flatt & Scruggs.

Dislikes are presenters who talk incessantly and play little music, and people who put artistes into slots, ie. Willie Nelson — Outlaw, Charlie Rich — crossover country. Colin says if you know the subject matter well enough you can usually find good country music from most artistes.

An avid listener to other country



music programmes and a reader of CMRU since its very first edition, Colin finds it more informative than other journals (such flattery — we like it!) and a good source of knowledge for use on his programme.

'Sounds Country, Sounds Western' goes out on Radio Stoke at 1.10pm 'til 2 o'clock each Saturday. Colin has been connected with the programme since November, 1983 and took over as presenter in January 1984. His involvement in

country music goes back to the early sixties when country music wasn't as popular as it is today. Included in this period is a time when he played in a country/rock band and also promoted country music shows.

REMINDER

DID SOMEONE ELSE GET YOURS LAST MONTH?

With our rapidly increasing following this could easily happen. Where as we're glad to have new readers, we don't want a sudden outcry from regulars that they can't get it.

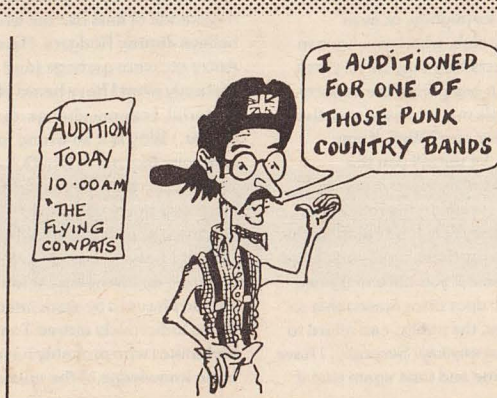
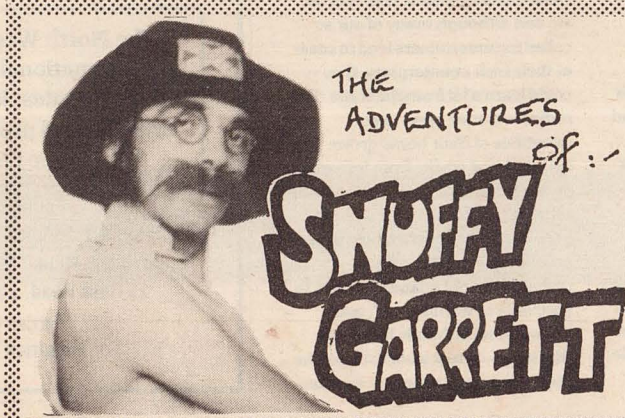
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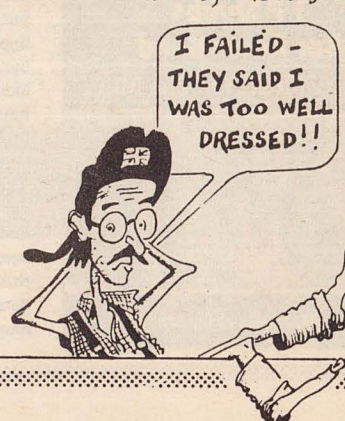
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May 1984

ROUND THE REGIONS



Marcia Hunter

WEST COUNTRY

● FOLLOWING the seasonal Easter activities this month we have the Breen Festival at Pontin's to look forward to. First though, a look back at what's been going on in the West Country during the past month.

KEYNSHAM

● The talented combination of John Harwood and Steve Wheeler, known as Borderline (not to be confused with the Carlisle-based group) presented Fry's CMC with a tight, harmonious programme, utilising their electric

and acoustic guitars, banjo and bass in expressive bluegrass/country style. Supporting was Cathy J and Bandana Country with their mixture of up-tempo and well-known ballads.

BRISTOL

● Charley Pride, nearing the end of an extensive British tour, treated Bristol to a usual high-spirited performance with a first-class show at the Bristol Hippodrome with excellent support from the Duffy Brothers.

TAUNTON

● The All-Winners Show at the Brewhouse, featured the Smokestack CMC's Best Solo, Duo and Band of last year, Johnny Spencer, the Dick Edwards Duo and Denver Spur. Promoter Dave Beck reports a sell-out evening, with Johnny Spencer in top form and the Dick Edwards Duo proved as popular as ever.

GLOUCESTER

● The St Peter's Club played host for a double billed attraction of Paul



● Tammy Jones

Weber and Hickory Lake. Dennis Lee reports a great evening, but he adds that the club's future will sadly depend on improved attendances over the next month. So please support if you can.

SWINDON

● Colorado packed the Moonraker's pub in Swindon, giving Eddie Hodge and his regulars an endless range of songs, all well-played and stylishly presented.

CORNWALL

● Peter Hampson praises Warren Reeves and Clarkesburg Express for their immensely popular show at his Longhorn Club.

● The full house were treated to three forty-five minute spots of warm-hearted, energetic entertainment.

● Johnny Spencer receives praise again from the Heavy Transport Club (Cornwall) via John Burrows: 'His versatile performance attracting a full-house and providing a very entertaining evening.'

MELKSHAM

● The British Legion Club (Melksham) have started holding

country gigs each month, thanks to the persistence of Mr John Humphries. Dorchester's Joe D Rose Country Band christened their first evening with a good performance. So, providing enough support is received, the nights will continue on a monthly basis. (Incidentally, you don't have to be a member of the B L to go along.)

TIVERTON

● Vernon Hutchings praises a 'simply stunning' performance from Tammy Jones at the New Hall. Her vocals were 'out-of-this-world'. Backed superbly by Campbell's Country, who opened the show with their own first-class performance. Also on the bill was Sarah Jory, backed by two members of Colorado Country, who gave a very confident, expressive performance.

● That's all for this month. Address as usual for all your news, dates and info: Marcia Hunter, 33 Berkeley Gardens, Keynsham, BRISTOL, BS18 2PN



Ernie Sears

SOUTHERN STYLE

● AN invite that I was pleased to actually be able to fulfil came from Dave Street and his wife Pat; and, as a consequence I travelled on a wet and windy night down to the Flight Refuelling Club at Merley near Wimborne, Dorset to enjoy Frank Jennings and the Syndicate plus Slim Pickens (who incidentally won the club's Best Solo Award trophy for 1983... although I'm not sure if the promoters ought to have presented it to him halfway through his act!)

● I had not seen Frank Jennings for a couple of years and his outfit

has 'changed' somewhat since those days although the lad himself proved still up among the best on the local scene.

● His keyboard man on this occasion was incapacitated with 'flu', but a fugitive from Drews Brew stood in admirably and certainly pleased the very full house at this nice club. We have since heard that Dave Street got some puritanical 'stick' from some who didn't appreciate Slim Pickens' jokes which, personally, I found naughty but very clever.

● Slim is also a fine musician and gave us some great fiddle work along with the cheeky vocals... query: country music's Benny Hill? — who pinched whose act?

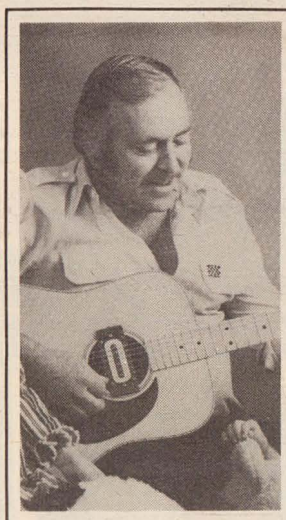
● Notable item via Dave Street is that Emerald, who play his club Good Friday, are 'packing up' this month (May).

● More info on Slim Pickens is that the burly lad has a nice thing going in country video films with some of the top acts recorded.

Might we not, this way, bridge that gap 'twixt 'our music' and the blank TV screens?

● Nothing much otherwise in the way of 'club reports' since other things have kept yours truly elsewhere... thanks to Eddie and Pearl Binstead once again though, for their help which enables this column, limited as it is, to be written at all!

● Odd items: We hear that super-voiced artiste Ed Nix is again foraying forth from his Southampton home with a band, also our other local 'star' big Norman Mourant has got his Country Gentlemen together again and is looking for band gigs to pad out his solo work. Bob Howard is looking for a drummer, and he's at Chichester CMC's St George's Hall, Whyke, on 26 May for their end of month dance. Jean Lesley has a band called Stetson around her. Up to the time of writing this copy (26 March) I've been missing out on my local Wildwood South CMC but hope to catch up this week-end.



● Norman Mourant

● Dr Hook's show blew up a storm. Our local Gaumont theatre drew a huge crowd, no doubt a lot of 'musos' were there taking note of things.

● A stop press item via the 'blower' from the above mentioned Jean Lesley is that we're to lose this little

lady with the super voice to 'near neighbours' in Devon, her hubby Ken having landed a new day job running a garage at Henyock near Taunton. Hang on, that's in Somerset isn't it? Oh, well — Devon she said! On the very eve of her first album being issued too — on Solent Records it's titled Jean Lesley and Stetson. I'm told Roy Parkhurst, Havant (Hants) 475483, holds the stocks. Give him a call.

● It also means the band are left without a lead female singer... any offers? Must be experienced. Meantime, our loss will be Devon's (or Somerset's!) gain.

● Well, there you go then. Space allowance must be running out. I haven't counted the words this month! So it's cheers for now, see you all soon. Mine's strictly a tomato juice with no sauce. Ta!!

● By the time you get this Charley Pride will have been and gone on his tour. He was at the Crawley Leisure Centre on 28 March but their mailing system sent all their programmes to my previous address! It's now 35 Chillerton, Ingleside, NETLEY ABBEY, Hants. (Southampton) 452600.



Sean Doherty

SOUTH EAST

● THE hectic festival time that starts in April, continues on into this month and next as we look forward to the festivals due up in the next few weeks or so. Harlow Festival organisers sent me an anonymous press release via Radio Kent and that promises another interesting line-up for this years event which takes place over the week-end of 2nd and 3rd of June. If you think you might have to pay an arm and a leg to see an array of top British talent you're wrong, because it is all free thanks to the enterprising Harlow Council.

● Another show billed as a 'Country Music Festival' takes place on 4 May which features Just Lee and Easy, Wychwood, Reg Haynes Outfit and The Jailhouse Band. The show will be compared by BBC Radio Kent's John Thurston. Tickets are available from Gravesend 67626 and are £2.50. All the profits from this show go to 'Friends of Gravesham Mentally Handicapped Children'. A good cause worth your support.

● The Central Hall, Chatham, is the venue for the Roy Drusky/Riders In The Sky tour this month with support by Ruby Rendall and band. This should prove a very popular attraction on their debut visit to this country. Further details from the box office. Another big show to hit the South East this month is the Don Williams, Jo-Anne Steele, plus Frank Jennings Syndicate event at the Brighton Centre, so there's plenty to spend your money on.

● NEW CLUBS... Sunday the 20th is the opening of the Rambling Rose CMC which plans to meet

every Sunday at the Rose and Crown (Tonbridge), the opening band is Shackles.

● The new Cowboy Lodge at the Invicta Club, Burnham Road, Dartford, now meets fortnightly on a Friday. The club has not been going that long but has a good line-up for this month with Rodeo Times and Yorkie.

● The Triangle CMC meets on the 19th of this month with American Brew, while the Golden Eagle CMC meets at Aster School Hall (Dover) with Country Echoes.

● I recently visited the Blue Montana Skies CMC at its 'new venue', the George Hotel (Chatham). The club was forced to leave its previous venue, but hopefully will be able to stay at this new one as it has a great atmosphere with several hours of care and attention taken before and after each meeting over the decor of the hall. Frank and all his helpers certainly work hard to create this atmosphere and make everyone

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welcome. The club now meets every Saturday.

● There's a country music trip to De Eftling, Holland; and, as I shall be along from Thursday night the 26 July to Monday 30 July, if you drop me a line with a SAE I can give you further information.

● Well, that seems to be it for this month. Don't forget, if you haven't read about your event in this

column, don't complain, just let me know in advance what you're doing and I will do my best — subject to space of course. Also I'd like to hear from any bands locally who would like a mention re. their happenings/changes etc. I seem to get more information from bands out of the area who are touring here.

● The address is 39 Brockman's Close, Minster, Nr RAMSGATE, Kent. The number is Thanet (0843) 821440.



LORD HALDON HOTEL

(weekly)
Dunchideock, EXETER, Devon
2 Manson Grant & the Dynamoes;
9 Terry Nash & Tumbleweed; 16 Pete Stanley and Brian Golbey; 23 Dave Sheriff; 30 Sarah and Colorado Country.

ROBINS CWC

(fortnightly)
Robins Football Club, Whaddon Road, CHELTENHAM, Glos.

12 Country Band; 26 Sundown; June 9 Nashville Fever; 16 All Day Festival. Every Tuesday — Club night with fast draw competitions.

WILDWOOD SOUTH CMC

(weekly)
Millbrook School, Maybush, SOUTHAMPTON

5 Tumbleweed Connection; 12 Western Approach; 19 Whitewater; 26 Duggie Dee Band

TRIPLE 'C' CWC

(weekly)
Perrys, Evendons Lane, WOKINGHAM, Berks
3 Cuttin' Loose; 10 Bandana; 17 Bob Howard and Southern Roots; 24 Johnny Carter and Hurricane Ridge; 31 Johnny Spencer Band

CHICHESTER CMC

(fortnightly)
St Georges & Lavant Hall, CHICHESTER
11 Hurrican Ridge; 26 Bob Howard. For other various weekly venues in the area contact Tony Bleach on Chichester 527439

WHITE HORSE CMC

(monthly)
Burbage, MARLBOROUGH, Wilts
11 Wesley Parker, Pinto

Bill Bevis, lead guitarist and vocalist, is looking to join a band or is willing to do stand in and session work. He can be reached on Southampton 845385.

Your local CMC needs your support wherever you live, it's been a long time since we gave you a list of contact numbers for the 'Southern Style' region so here goes: Chichester (0243) 527439, Brighton (07917) 62525, Basingstoke (0256) 51493, Ponderosa (0329) 833132, Ringwood (0202) 877498, Country Unison, Poole (0202) 731161, Texas Star, Wool (0305) 852668, Triple 'C', Wokingham, (0734) 875544, Oxford (0865) 46168. Info courtesy of Reg Lodge.

WORTHING TALENT CONTEST

● OVER a couple of dozen acts are already lined up for the First Great All British Talent Contest which takes place at the Worthing Pavilion on Sunday 6 May and Monday 7 May. There are two shows each day with tickets at £2 or a season ticket at £7, available from the Pavilion Box Office, Marine Parade, Worthing, Sussex.

The winners will appear at the Worthing Festival in August and will also be offered a spot at the BCMA Awards Week-end in November.

VIKING SHIP MOTEL

(weekly)
Pegwell Bay, Nr RAMSGATE, Kent
6 Obson's Choice; 13 Gunsmoke; 20 Five Cents; 27 Blue Country

May 1984



CLIFFSONS CMC (weekly)
War Memorial Club, WREXHAM,
North Wales
7 High Plainsmen; 14 Steve Francis;
21 Cindy & Dave; 28 Weaver Country.
Resident hosts: The Cliffsons

LAZYACRE CMC (fortnightly)
Lord Hill Hotel, Abbey Foregate,
SHREWSBURY, Shropshire
7 West Virginia, Randy Wade and Tony
Best; 21 No club; 28 Bob McKinlay &
Dixie Fried, Dave Arnold, Tony Best



John Ford

SORRY! Due to circumstances outside of our control, we are unable to bring you John Ford's Border Counties review for this month

KYRE PARK FESTIVAL

● AUGUST 25 and 26 are the dates for the festival to be held at Kyre Park House in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. Kyre Park House is a residential centre providing accommodation for spastics; and, during the afternoon of 26 August Tony Best will be organising a talent competition. Prospective entrants should contact Tony, now at 33 Lancaster Road, Harlescote Green, Shrewsbury. Tel: (0743) 58156.

STV CALL FOR CAREY

● SCOTTISH Television's second series of 'All Kinds Of Country' takes on a new look with the inclusion of Carey Duncan and Amy Collins to the line-up of resident artistes. Globe trotting Carey — recently returned from Nashville — will add strength to the 'home' team. Guest artistes for the series — due for autumn transmission — include George Hamilton IV, Billie Jo Spears, Roy Drusky and Philomena Begley. Producer Clark Taite shows determination in putting country music over in a broader sense which can be seen with the back up band line up which includes Dougie Stevens, steel guitar, Duncan Findlay, guitar and Fraser Spiers, harmonica. Show director is Chris Allen.

Your club could be listed here.
To find out more ring Roy Edwards on (0522) 685507

ROUND THE REGIONS



Frank Power

SOUTH WALES

● I 'WALTZED across Texas' with Hickory Lake at the monthly show at the Bridgend Recreation Centre. Headliner, Paul Weber from the US, proved a likeable guy and put over some meaningful material, sung outlaw style not unlike Waylon Jennings. A fair attendance and a pleasant evening.

● The Park Hall Ballroom featured Bluegrass Express, Johnny Spencer and Pinkerton's Colours, at this spacious venue at Wormelow. Bluegrass Express, an acoustic foursome from the

Northampton area, put on the country style to initiate the evening's proceedings, and came up with a honky tonk number 'Dim Lights, Thick Smoke and Loud, Loud Music'.

● All round entertainer Johnny Spencer held his audience well with superb songs and skilful picking; while the first half was concluded by Pinkerton's Colours, who eventually rounded the night off (in the early hours of the next day!) with a sterling performance.

● Pinkerton's Colours (who's following who?) turned up to make the night happier for the OK CMC, (Malpas, Newport) fans who enjoyed their brand of music. This former pop group has crossed the country border well, Mike, Phil and Pete proved a great bunch of lads!

● The OK anniversary show featured Jon Derek and Country Fever, with Mal Daron making up the evening's fare. The latest line up of Country Fever gave Jon good

support, who I'm pleased to say still does 'Til The Rivers All Run Dry'.

● Mal Daron, Bristol's answer to Peter Pan, remains extremely popular at this venue. He sang, whistled and talked his way into the hearts of an appreciative, almost spellbound audience.

● Cooper's Country, a family affair, were well received at the OK's next show. Bert sings à la Jim Reeves, and well he does it, with all the family right there with him. Charlie, on drums, is the only non-family member, but we were assured he is a very good friend. The Hereford Heroes went down well.

● A new group to me J J Martins Band. (How good are they?) Well, when they played the Fairso CMC at the Fairwater Social and Athletic Club (Cardiff), they came up trumps although Martin (rhythm), Will (bass), Jon (banjo), Andy (fiddle) and June (tamborine) had to be content to play to a small audience.



BADGER COUNTRY SETS OFF

Telephone: 0533 600620



● The Fairso CMC anniversary show drew a marginally bigger audience for former residents Clovis Country Band. Settling in nicely with regulars Al, Colin and Alan are newcomers Dave Harper on steel, and Des (Smiler) Richards on lead. Still one of the better bands around.

● The Crest Hotel (Cardiff) opposite the castle is a Sunday scene of live country and western music, and didn't have many seats to spare when I saw Ron Jones and Black Jack County perform there. Alan Crompton took over for Colin Mackie on lead and did well. Nice to see Elaine Holder the pretty blonde cowgirl, even if she couldn't be persuaded to sing as she did recently with the band at the OK CMC (Newport).

● A charity show at Pulmans Club, Davis Street, Cardiff, with the Dixie Rebels, Dave Parsons, Dave Nash and Ben (an acquired bass), Dave, Bruce Duo and compere Alan (the unpronounceable) Sastanovich. All were great, even Alan sang well; but, the show revived sad memories for the late Wally Wallace's daughter Belinda and her husband Mick who's the drummer with the Dixie Rebels, and asked if I could remind readers that Wally has been sadly missed over the past year. (We echo that.)

● Howard and Hughie, the 'H's' of the Double H Syndicate, together with Bernie on steel and Chris Seager on bass gave another warm country night at the Imperial Hotel (Swansea). John Elias and Chris provided the break, while a spot the ball prize provided me with cash to buy chicken and chips at the venue.

● D C and the Dudes made my night at the Ladbroke Mercury Hotel (Newport). Fabulous keyboard sounds, and soft laid back material from the boys, and I went home happy.

● At last I visited the Wydean CMC at the Anchor Hotel, Tintern. A welcoming, friendly club, they staged a country evening with Mel Hague, followed by Double D. Mel had something for everyone with his real deep, country voice, while Dave Tarr and Dick (Superdick) Tyler struck some harmonious sounds with 'Coffee Black'. Good honest performers and friendly people. A well run club, congratulations Babs and Randy. See you again... Couldn't find my car after, how about a light in the car park then?

● Bromford County are another name to add to the ever growing list of bands to break their date at the OK.

● There's been a break up of the Empty Pockets duo. Phil is now part of a band of the same name and I'm told John could be joining the Wurzels!

● My star spot of the month, a fantastic stand up version of 'Old Flames' by Dave Parsons at the Cardiff Pulman Club.

● Any dates and information, tickets or meal vouchers to, Frank Power, 1 Alma Road, CARDIFF, CF2 5BD. Tel: 492021.

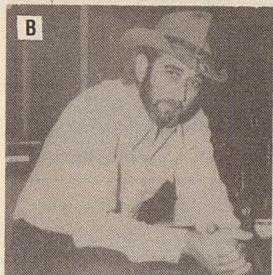
* Any artistes willing to show at a charity in Newport, please contact me.

Country Music Round Up SPECIAL OFFER Poster Photos

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A — Boxcar Willie
B — Don Williams
C — Jimmy C Newman

Size: 300mm x 400mm
Please state the number of each required.



Send cheque/PO to Country Music Round Up (Poster Offer).



Richard Dudgeon

ULSTER

IN recent years there was not much interest in country music at the Linfield Social Club but that all changed on Tuesday 27 March when three hundred residents turned out to see a country show by some of our finest local artistes.

The show was organised for Linfield defender John Garrett's benefit.

As it was a complete sell-out the Benefit Committee now plan to have a similar event in September. The programme opened with the Dry Can Country. This group also

did a great job of backing the other artistes on the bill. There were some very fine duets from a really nice couple, Ann and Dave.

Fiddlin' Tom Cameron, sang a few songs including his hit single 'The Old Pine Tree', but he really got the crowd going when he picked up his fiddle. They were clapping their hands and stamping their feet to



● Greta Elkin

such tunes as 'Ragtime Annie', 'Turkey In the Straw', and 'Three Finger Rag' a tune he wrote while learning to play the fiddle again after losing a finger in an accident.

Some fine yodelling by Greta Elkin on numbers like 'China Doll', 'The Windmill Turning' and 'Casting My Lasso' also had the crowd calling for more.

The star of the evening, Crawford Bell, rounded off a great night of country music singing 'Sioux City Sue' plus a couple of numbers on the trumpet, a few Gospel numbers ending with 'Susan's Floor' and 'The Two Step Is Easy'. Both tracks off his latest single.

Eric Ewart did a fine job as compere cracking some fine jokes between acts. All in all a really good nights country entertainment that will ensure the one in September will be just as well supported.

Ireland's singing farmer John Watt left all the farmyard chores aside to pick up his guitar and travel all the way from Loughgiel, Co. Antrim,



● Fiddlin' Tom Cameron

for a special cabaret appearance at Brenda's last month. John was looking forward to the visit to Rathfriland because the last time he was booked to appear there he was struck down with the flu bug and had to cancel so he was glad to meet up with all his old fans.

On the bill with John were popular duo Teamwork and Banbridge's new singing star, Donna Ward.

That's it for this month. The address as usual: 10 Kitchener Street, BELFAST, BT12. Phone 240415

May 1984

ROUND THE REGIONS



D K O'Boyle

SHADES OF GREEN

The gentle giant from Castleblaney, Big Tom, is back in the Irish charts with a new singing partner, Sandy Kelly, enjoying success with a duet, 'If I Needed You'. But who is this Sandy Kelly you may ask? Well she's no newcomer, but perhaps better known as our Eurovision vocalist of two years ago, Sandy Duskey.

Sandy has joined the management of Kevin McCooley, who similarly looks after Big Tom and the Travellers. Their first move was to get a new backing band for the songbird — an 'all star' line up

that includes former Mainliners bass guitarist and vocalist Ginger and Morgan, Martin Cleary on steel and lead guitar, Pauric Reilly on sax, Mike Kelly on keyboards, and Shaun McCormack on drums. Booking out as the Sandy Kelly Band their programme has a 60% country format. Sandy is delighted that the single with Big Tom is enjoying good air-spins and chart status, and feels 'If I Needed You' has good international potential. This Sligo-based singer is now looking for new recording material to launch her own solo single in the country format. Despite it being a recession hit industry, both Sandy and manager Kevin are confident that the Sandy Kelly Band have the ability to become a major force on the Irish music scene, I wish them well.

COMPOSERS INVITED

The 19th Castlebar International Song Contest is one of the richest such events in the world. For this years contest, which will be staged from 1st October 'til 7th, they offer a prize fund of £20,000, £10,000 of

which will go to the winning composition. However, the winners will be expected to spend £5,000 of the prize on the recording and promotion of their entry. Composers interested should write to Mrs G O'Connor, CISC, 10 St Helen's Road, BOOTERSTOWN, Co. Dublin for an entry form. The closing date for entries is 23 June.

OFF TO TEXAS

Ireland have selected their three acts that will represent their country at the International Country Music Festival in Texas next July. The acts were selected via a popularity poll in the 'Sunday Independent'. The male singer is Ray Lynam of the Hillbillies, Susan McCann the female, and the country act Two's Company. Runners up in the poll were Big Tom, Philomena Begley and Foster and Allen. Last year Susan and Two's Company were also in Texas, this time round Ray takes over the male vocalist role from Big Tom.

CORK WELCOMES THE COUNTRY STARS

Scottish circuit tour, but hopes are high that a far south tour will come after their Ladbroke Hotel outing.

HOSPITAL RADIO ASSIST

Following a brief article in March CMRU, the most astonishingly generous offer of aid to Hospital Radio Law comes from south of the border — Hospital Radio Metro, Manchester. A phone call from staff member Dave Selwood wishing to pass on the stations assistance via a complete mixing board. The message was passed to Radio Law station director, Murdo Morrison, who wishes to thank — through CMRU — HRM station manager Bill Anderson (no not that one) and his entire staff.

CALL OFF LET DOWN

Late cancellations are not one of the best ways to create harmony — particularly when a re-booking may be sought. Tucson CMC experienced some disappointment when the Pat Derry and Memphis show was called off. Although I'm pleased to report the confusion was overcome and the

Over the Whit week-end, Cork, the City by the Lee, expects to welcome thousands of country music fans for the second 'Carling' country and western festival. This year's line up of international acts confirmed to date include: from America Don Gibson, also the Bellamy Brothers; from Britain Tony Christy, Terisita, and Frank Ifield; from Norway Bjoro Haaland. These are joined by Irish artistes Susan McCann and Joe Dolan. Sadly, many may feel this bill is not as strong a draw as the Belfast country festival at Easter. No doubt all will blame the recession.

COUNTRY MUSIC IN BRIEF

RTE Radio 2 are to present around the clock (24-hour) broadcasting, as from November next. The bad news yet to be confirmed is that it seems there is no room for the popular series 'Keep It Country' in the new schedules. As yet we have no news what will happen to this number one programme for Irish country music fans. Some say they are trying to transfer the programme to Radio 1, others say it may be axed?

date filled, albeit with a disco type show. No moss grows under the feet of club prexy Jackie Blair. Hearing Dick Damron and the Roger Humphries Band show was available for Scotland, a booking was quickly confirmed for November. The Tucson and near neighbours Penville CMC are high on the list of where to go come the holiday season. Both meet alternate Mondays and Thursdays at the Berry Suite Edinburgh and the Navaar House Hotel respectively.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Cowboy Jim (Bullet Hole) Templeton is counting his losses and gains following a fast draw competition accident. While unloading, Jim's gun went off... loss: — one finger... gain? — permanent scarring and disfigurement. A little bird tells me J T is now contemplating a new alias... perhaps 'The Four Fingered Kid'? Coincidence of all coincidences was the fact that the previous occupier of the ambulance

Philomena Begley back with a new look band, and delighted to see her debut single for Ritz Records 'The Way Old Friends Do' in our best sellers list. This Abba song is also included on her Ritz album.

Big Tom's long over-due album (due out last Christmas) will, I'm told, be on sale early in June, my source: manager Kevin McCooley.

Singer Brendan Shine informs he has fourteen of his albums set for release down under in New Zealand and Australia, where he hopes to tour with his band next year!

Bangor singer Tina James has issued her second single, a number entitled 'Sitting On A City Centre Bench', she featured the song on BBC TV's 'Make Mine Country' last year, and now Rainbow Records have issued it. Whatever happened to the Kerry hit makers of last year, nothing new from Dermot Moriarty and his Gypsy Fever, or from Jesse and the James Boys. Last year both acts were never off the air with their records, this year nothing new it seems. Slan go foill.

was an 'indian' who shot himself with an arrow at another C&W venue. Little wonder the ambulance driver was quoted as saying: 'Will it be the wee green men from Mars next?'

AIMING HIGH

Swinging Doors CWC (Alexandra Parade, Glasgow) is to introduce once a month top shows in addition to the regular weekly Wednesday meets. Also this month an inter-club talent contest in conjunction with near neighbours of the same name who meet weekly Thursdays at Quarryknowe, St Parkhead. Finals of the contest are due to take place at the Pavillion Theatre in Glasgow where Carmel and Country Pride have been pencilled in to appear.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Swinging Doors members Ike & Mary on the birth of their daughter Michelle... To Bill & Christine on their marriage... and to Margaret on her great gold and silver medal achievement in the swimming competitions and fund raising. Welcome to CMRU folks.

have plans for a single and another album to be released in the not too distant future.

Recent AGM's held in Inverurie, Tain and Shetland clubs. Contacts for the two first named remain the same but from what I hear there are several changes in the Shetland line-up.

HEALTH LINE

A lot of sympathetic thoughts are being directed towards Ronnie Watt, president of the Elgin CMC these days. Ronnie was involved in a road accident recently and received serious head and leg injuries, we wish him a speedy recovery. Still continuing to make tremendous progress is Davey Duff.

This month we can look forward to hearing the Country Ramblers and Bob McKinlay and Dixie Fried as a bonus with the usual local and semi-local favourites. As usual news, views, and comments to 56 Kilmuir Road, INVERNESS or call (0463) 221268.



Dave Hendry

SCOTLAND CALLIN'

A MAJOR break up in one of Scotland's top bands has caused no end of chatter among fans. Only a few months after increasing their number to four — Jolene and Part Three have decided to part company. Personal problems are the root of the bust up which will see drummer Billy Riddell and steel/rhythm guitarist Donnie Johnson book out as a duo. Remaining pair Barry and Wendy are to add to their partnership — possibly going as a trio or quartet. Forecasts of another break up in a popular combo based in the central region are not without foundation?!

ROB ROY COUNTRY

Kirintilloch Rob Roy S C having met with great success with their country shows, have taken the plunge and appointed Bakersfield as resident band. The combo handle every aspect of the music from western swing to the more progressive style. Interesting to note this outfit sink a percentage of all their gig fees into an 'update' kitty to keep up their immaculate presentation. New equipment and stage wear feature high on the shopping list at regular intervals. 'The punters are entitled to the best available all round presentation, treat 'em right and you will reap the rewards...' says John.

OHIO — SOUTHBOUND

Ayrshire-based Ohio are now taking every hurdle in their stride. According to combo leader Bob Wallace, the CMRU Watford show will be their biggest to date and getting over that can lead them towards the winners enclosure. Before returning home Ohio head into Wales and then it's back to the



Ann Carmody

HIGHLAND COUNTRY

THERE are distinct waves of unrest prevailing in the Scottish band scene these days with several talking about calling it a day due to a variety of reasons. Unlike these, the Invergordon-based Country Jays who have had a run of bad luck recently are determined to weather the storm and are seeking a replacement lead guitarist/vocalist for James Smith who quit unexpectedly. On their way home from a tour in England the engine of their van gave up and had to be renewed at great expense. Via this column the boys would like to thank most sincerely all who helped them out of this predicament.

Revived Irish group American Express toured the Highlands recently to be well received at all venues, although the non-appearance of Chris Beckett at the first few gigs proved a disappointment to some. However, after a few numbers from the quartet everyone seemed to agree that they were a first-class country band. Undoubtedly the hero of this tour was Chris Blair's younger brother Philip who, apparently had never previously played with a band, but he worked extra hard to learn the numbers and did not let the group down. I was impressed with his vocal capabilities and playing potential!

I was unable to see any of Patsy Powell's farewell tour but according to my reports they were quality shows.

The Pridemen from Donegal have again been in these parts and, as now seems usual, their quiet unassuming way provided the punters with an excellent variety of well presented material. Also from Ireland, Terry Nash renewed his links with Scotland and gaining more fans.



American Express

Still on the Irish theme I recently received a copy of the Philomena Begley fan club newsletter. The club secretary is Kathleen Cahill, 54 Balally Avenue, DUBLIN 16.

For the second year running Manson Grant and the Dynamoes attracted a full house of 4th, 5th and 6th year pupils from Aberdeen Grammar School. Organised by the pupils themselves it is

heartening to learn that they chose a country band! Busy at work on their latest recordings the Dynamoes hope to release two albums before the end of the year.

A surprised Helen MacPherson received a special trophy from the Duke Boys on a recent edition of her 'Country Round Up' radio show: the award for the 'Best Interview Of 1983'. These boys also



NO HAZARD FOR THE DUKES

A CHANGE of name has meant little or nothing to the Duke Boys, formerly the Dukes of Hazard. Obvious reasons can be found for the objections lodged by Warners Brothers when it was discovered the Scots lads had recorded using the American stars title minus one 'Z' in an endeavour to overcome the copyright. The 'NO GO' message came over loud and clear to Nigel Slater, George Baillie and Donnie Menzies who have now found they have built such a fine reputation in the country circuit. They have been engaged to appear on tour in Canada, New Zealand, Australia (which takes in the Tamworth Festival of Country Music).

COACHMANS COUNTRY CLUB

(weekly)
Belmont Road, STRANRAER
Gary Roberts; Dennis Byers; Beechwood; Country Vision; Freeway

SWINGIN' DOORS CWC

(weekly)
St Andrew's Social Club, Alexandra Parade, GLASGOW
2 Prairie Moon; 9 Bakersfield; 16 Travis; 23 Country Blues; 30 Carmel/Country Pride

GLASGOW'S 'GRAND OLE OPRT'

(weekly)
2/4 Govan Road, GLASGOW, G57
3 Ruby Rendall & Cimarron; 4 Tommy Truesdale and Sundowners; 5 Moat Brothers; 6 Legend; 7 Carmel and Country Pride; 10 Texas Express; 11 Belle Murray and Random; 12 Colorado; 13 Western Front; 18 Gambler; 19 Bakersfield; 20 Country Boys; 24 Patrice, Roly Daniels and Tulsa; 25 Carmel and Country Pride; 26 Texas Express; 27 Country Smoke

ABERDEEN CWC

(weekly)
The Hotel Metro, 17 Market Street, ABERDEEN, Scotland
1 Wesley Parker, Pinto, Ruby Rendall and Cimarron; 8 Susan McCann & the Storytellers, The Dukes Boys; 15 Gerry Ford and Rambler and the Country Ramblers; 22 Manson Grant & the Dynamoes, Ohio; 29 Roly Daniels, Patrice, Tulsa, Glen Scott Trio

INVERNESS CWC

(weekly)
Pharoahs, Inverness Ice Rink
1 Cuttin' Loose, The Duke Boys; 8 Colorado; 15 Jolene with Part Three; 22 The Country Ramblers, Prairie Moon; 29 Bob McKinlay and Dixie Fried.

TUCSON CMC

(fortnightly)
Berry Suite, Abbey Lane, EDINBURGH, Scotland
14 Manson Grant & the Dynamoes; 28 Hamilton's Power

SCMAS STAY AT HOME

SINCE it was announced the Scottish Country Music Appreciation Society was dropping the 'Scottish' and going nationwide, differences of opinion has resulted in a new group of organisers taking the society and staying with the 'Scottish' title. Led by Don and Chris Cartwright with Austin Marshall retaining the vice-presidency, the new set up has very promising support. Initial discussions indicate that the annual award ceremonies will take place around September at a selected venue. Sponsors have come forward offering their support and backing.

May 1984



KRS COUNTRY (monthly)
Kodak Hall, Wealdstone, Middx
19 The Together Band

7-11 CMC (weekly)
Travellers Rest, Kenton Road,
KENTON, Middx
6 Hobo; 13 Blueberry Buckle; 20 Bob
McKinlay & Dixie Fried; 27 Tom
Jennings and Band

HARROW CMC (weekly)
Morritt Suite, Wealdstone F.C.,
Station Road, HARROW, Middx
3 Manson Grant and the Dynamoes;
10 Warren Reeves and Clarkesburg
Express; 17 Tumbleweed Connection;
24 Hobo; 31 Aubrey Lovejoy Band

MERRYHILLS CMC (fortnightly)
Travellers Rest, Kenton Road,
KENTON, Middx
4 Opening Night: Stewart Brothers &
First Chapter; 18 Jenny Speller &
Spellbound; 1 June Drews Brew

PALOMINO CMC (weekly)
Ye Olde Cherry Tree, High Street,
SOUTHGATE, N14
3 Emerald; 10 Johnny Carter &
Hurricane Ridge; 17 Bob McKinlay &
Dixie Fried; 24 Cotton Mill Boys;
31 Randy Wade (USA) and West
Virginia

FOUR ON THE FLOOR (weekly)
Hounslow FC, Denbigh Road,
HOUSLOW, Middx

1 Tom Jennings Band; 8 Manson Grant
& the Dynamoes; 15 Tumbleweed
Connection; 22 Hurricane Ridge;
29 Randy Wade (USA) and West
Virginia

COLCHESTER CMC
(1st & 3rd Thursdays)
Woods Leisure Centre, Braiswick,
COLCHESTER, Essex
3 San Diego and Art Williams;
17 Emerald

MARINE BALLROOM
(fortnightly)
Bridge Street, EVESHAM, Worcs.
12 The Roger Humphries Band;
26 Poacher.

WEST WAY CMC (weekly)
Witney Town Football Club, Oxon
6 Country Choice; 13 Warren Reeves &
Clarkesburg Express; 20 Hickory Lake;
27 Little Buddies

WESLEY PARKER TOUR DATES

● Tues 1 May Aberdeen CMC,
The Metro Hotel, Aberdeen,
Scotland; Fri 4 May British Rail
Club, Faversham, Kent; Sat 5 May
Eden Valley CMC, Edenbridge,
Kent; Mon 7 May Hen & Chickens,
Warley, West Midlands; Thur 10
May Pontin's, Prestatyn, North
Wales; Fri 11 May The White
Horse CMC, Burbage, Wiltshire;
Sat 12 May Continental Divide
CMC, Novatel, Plymouth; Fri 18
May Whitecliffe Bay Country
Music Festival, Bembridge, Isle Of
Wight; Sat 19 May Isle of Wight
Country Music Centre, Rookley,
Isle of Wight; Sun 20 May The
Sovereign Hall, The Cressett,
Peterborough, Cambs; Tues 22
May Pontin's, Brean Sands,
Somerset; Wed 23 May/Thurs 31
May To Be Announced

STOP PRESS

● **TOM JENNINGS** and the
Nashville Session Band's new
album, 'No 1', now released.

ROUND THE REGIONS



Tony Anderson

LONDON SCENE

AFTER my recent comments about the GLC not repeating their Country Music Festival at Lesnes Abbey this year. All is not apparently lost because on May Bank Holiday at Southmere Park, Thamesmead within a full and varied programme of events will include the multi-talented Hank Wangford Band also Shag Connors and the Carrot Crunchers, so the Festival may be cancelled but country is represented at this particular gala — remember admission is free.

VIRGINIAN FLAVOUR

I made my first visit this year to the Virginian club, Erith, recently. Rio, the group appearing, are fronted by Steve Scott, who handles the vocals. Other members being Steve Martin (guitar), Tommy O'Donnell (drums), and Chris Paschalides on bass. They gave a good performance for a below average attendance at a club that possibly, through its connection with the westerner element, seems not to have been noticeably affected by the recession. Now into its third year they meet every Sunday evening.

ANOTHER GROUP GO WEST

Physically and not literally that is because London will be the poorer but the West Coast that much richer as popular group Yorkie make the journey to Devon to take up residence. I hope they can periodically reverse the procedure back to the 'smoke' for a few gigs. Best of luck in this new venture lads.

A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY

New Barnet-based group Sweetcorn have a bass guitarist/vocalist oddly named Oscar Delta who doesn't intend becoming a PC Plodd during the coming months. He actually intends to run the marathon not once but twice, all for charity, namely the Variety Clubs of Great Britain, Sunshine Coaches Appeal.

Although unable to get into the London marathon he's entered on 6 May in the Abingdon run and in June attempts another twenty-six miles plus in Sheffield. It's not particularly unknown territory for Oscar because in 1982 he did complete the London marathon in three hours 15 minutes a time he hopes to beat on both these occasions. The more I think of his 'feet' the more the bands loses its sweetness, and just makes me think of corns.

CHEYENNE MOVE RESERVATIONS

Another sad note to report is that

the 'Tupper' connection with the Cheyenne club at East Ham had ceased. Flo has relinquished the reins after seven years although she maintains that Friday nights will still see her at the clubs new venue at the Fishing Smack, Barking, but purely as a club member where she can 'chew the fat' with all and sundry. Harry Howarth has taken over as club sec and can be contacted on (01-592) 9215.

DEAR DIARY

Dates for your diary this month should include Tom Whelan's 'Four On The Floor' club which recently celebrated its tenth birthday. Their regular Tuesday night meetings are at the Hounslow Football Club, Manson Grant and the Dynamoes and American Randy Wade with West Virginia are among those who entertain in May. Local neighbours, The Grange CMC at Osterley still gather on Sunday evenings.

The Editor needed this months copy extra early so remember to send me anything for inclusion in

ample time — have a good month the address is the same:— 40 Cole Close, Thamesmead, LONDON, SE28 8AU. Tel: (01-310) 2792.

ARTISTS ARE YOU GETTING YOUR SHARE OF BOOKINGS?

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Joe Allen

ANGLIA REPORT

● MY information is that local boy Steve Wilson has lately been recording at studios in Wellingborough to lay down nine tracks for his new LP. No title has yet been given to it however. Helping out with the vocal harmonies and guitar backing was Corbys own country hero, Ray Brett. I also hear that the Cockatoos, the group which caused a stir in this region recently, have just been out to the Falkland Islands to entertain the troops.

● Just outside our area, but worth making a note of, next month the 'free' Harlow Country Music Festival is taking place again on



● Yellowstone Picnic Band

second and third of June at the Spurriers area of the town park. Harlow claim theirs was the first such all British Festival and are booking such names as Johnny Spencer, Roger Humphries, Jenny Speller, Lorne Gibson and the Yellowstone Picnic Band on the

Saturday; and Campbell's Country, West Virginia, Lazyacre Roadshow, Tammy Cline, Frank Ifield and Barbary Coast on the Sunday. Comperes are Slim Pickens and Vic Woodhouse. There will of course be trade stands and other attractions laid on,

including refreshments. If the weather stays fine everyone should have a good time.

● 17 March saw the Northants CMC (Towcester) play host to Gordie West again with a complete sell out audience. Gordie was presented with a trophy to commemorate his assignment as Honorary President of the club.

● Joan Addyman (who runs the Grantham CMC) reports that the opening night of the Peterborough CMC held at the Great Northern Hotel went off without a hitch and a good crowd turned up.

● The Derngate Centre (Northants) stage Slim Whitman this month. He also makes an appearance at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, as does Ms Emmy Lou Harris.

● Tony Goodacre, who has embarked on his '84 tour, visits the Theatre Royal (Bury St Edmunds)

with a full eight-piece session band, plus Printers Alley and the Jeannie Dee Duo.

● The Cressett (Peterborough) feature Pinto and the Duffy Brothers, with Terry McKenna as compere. Should be good!

● The Cambridge CMC who meet at Cambridge United FC Supporters Club have visits from Eddy Falcon and Smith & Wesson; whilst the Marine Ballroom (Evesham) bring in Roger Humphries and Poacher (tickets are reserved for this one).

● I had a note from a five-piece band, the Cross Country Flyers from Cambridge, consisting of Keith Pearson, Phil Milmer, Ray Smith, Don Lewis and Tim Tellis, who claim they have the missing ingredient in British country music. (Eds: Good luck to them as someone has to have don't they!)

● Well, that's it for this month folks. Any info, as usual please to Joe Allen, 385 Shelley Road, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants, NN8 3EW. Tel: (0933) 677352.



Stuart Cameron

SOUTH MIDLANDS

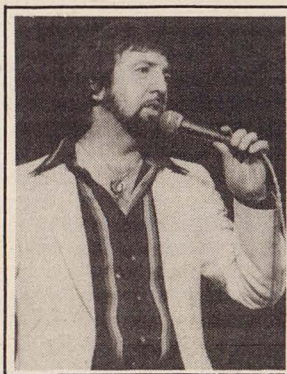
HELLO again! Local favourite Frank Jennings has been into the recording studios for the first time in over five years. Re-united with Richard De-Silva, his former producer in EMI/Columbia Records days, we await the new album with interest. It comes at a time when Frank celebrates his fifteenth year in the business, and will be support act on the Don Williams tour.

'I've gone for a very bright album,' he told me. 'Before we've gone into the studio to record singles, which have later been put on LP's. This

time though we've gone into the studio with the sole purpose of cutting an album, and I think we've achieved a well-balanced production as a result.'

I'm always pleased to meet up with George Moody, but this was the first time I'd seen him since his line-up changes. Needless to say the new Country Squires are equal to those who have gone before. Geoff Eatwell (steel guitar) was very impressive and obviously enjoying his music. Robbie Hawkins on bass is a complete contrast to Mike's former bass players but he has his own wicked sense of humour playing straight man and works well with George, visually as well as musically. Back on drums is Dave Allen, and together they produce a nice tight sound.

Always one of the most respected bands on the British country scene — and George is instantly remembered when the subject of Britain's top male vocalists is discussed. Although he's going through a frustrated period at the moment trying to break the MOR



● Frank Jennings

market with national distribution for a new record he has recorded, he freely admits, 'My album of standard songs like 'Crystal Chandeliers' and 'Best Friend' still outsell my better 'Dream Of Me' LP by 7:1,' proving yet again exactly what the problems are of breaking new material to Mr Average British country fan, who must have collected one hundred versions of 'Crystal Chandeliers' by now! Perhaps George is a victim of his own making; as, unlike many of the other top acts now on the scene,

George does give them plenty of the standard, but at least you hear good versions of those songs when George puts his vocal styling to them.

Foster and Allen's show crossed over well to a country/Irish/folk/MOR audience, and when I caught them at Oxford's Apollo and London's Dominion they certainly didn't disappoint. Well over 1,200 at Oxford and nearing 2,000 at London proved their popularity. T.R. Dallas is winning himself plenty more fans too over in England, and Philomena Begley, were all well accepted for their sets. Poacher, now a four-piece, really pleased the Oxford crowd.

When Patsy Powell said her final tearful goodbye's to this area (three venues) in March; at Bicester she drew over 350 and Evesham 485 were packed in tight with the doors being closed on over 60 unlucky fans who wanted to catch a glimpse of this long time British country queen.

Meanwhile Charlie Moore of the Goodtimers has said that David Jay

from Slough will be taking over as lead singer of the band from Patsy; and by the time you read this they should have a couple of gigs already under their belt.

Congratulations to Midlands performer: Dave Sheriff on producing a nice single called 'Don't Tell Me Lies' on the Dapa label. He's managed national distribution with PRT Records, and has a couple of TV appearances in the bag to promote the disc along with a radio tour. Dave, not surprisingly, played all the instruments on the record.

Finally, the Compilations LP of British Country Music, promoted by White Trax Studios, is now in the recording stage. Volume 1 featured among others: Chris Dale Band, Maria O'Brien and Flicka, Van De Hoog's Country Curative, Bromford County and Cripple Creek. The project is aimed mainly at semi-pro country bands, and Volume 2 is now being planned.

That's it for this month. (0295) 710815 is my number for news for future issues.

May 1984

ROUND THE REGIONS



Brian Ahern

NORTH WEST

● It was a pleasure to meet up with one of Liverpool's oldest established country music bands, The Everglades at High Lane CMC recently. This band was often confused with Frank Yoncos backing band of the same name until Frank changed his band's name to the Superglades. Bass guitar/vocalist Bernie Green and front man Tony Ainscow relate to the light hearted humour that the sharing of band names caused over the years.

● The Everglades gave the High Lane crowd a first rate evenings entertainment and I can highly

recommend that you go out and catch their show. A new band to this region was Peter Morrell & the Severn Valley Country Sounds, who went through a succession of standards (as advertised in their publicity pack). But this band did impress me, and I liked their tour jackets and stage dress. It was a pity that their leader was under pressure with a sore throat. Hank Walters & his Dusty Road Ramblers drew the full house signs for their visit to High Lane. This almost legendary outfit held the packed crowd in the palm of their hands with their razor sharp humour and good music.

● Tom Jennings & the Nashville Session Band on a rare visit to the North West showed why they enjoy star status on their own patch. Tom is not the first to shower praise on this audience because they come to listen and appreciate the music rather than use it as background for a night out.

ST PETER'S SOCIAL CLUB

● Played host to Canadian Paul Weber & Hickory Lake in a joint

promotion between the Western & High Lane CMCs in the first of a series of joint ventures which looks very appetising for regional country fans. Hickory Lake did a splendid job both warming the audience then staying on stage to back US touring artiste Paul Weber, who was brilliant, giving Stockport fans one of the best shows that this region has ever seen. Although the night belonged to Paul Weber I would be lacking in my duties if I did not further commend Hickory Lake for their superb support, not only at this venue, but apparently throughout the tour, as Paul Weber related to me how grateful he was for the help, encouragement and friendship that this band had lavished on him.

ALDERLEY EDGE CMC

● The luxurious De Trafford Hotel situated in the stockbroker belt of Alderley Edge — which is now more noted for its residential swimming pools than its witchcraft of old — played host to the opening of Alderley Edge CMC, organised by a good friend of country music, Wendy Mellor. Starring Peter Kane

and his unique treble sound, Peter gave this club a very good start with his varied repertoire of country songs, and generally the night was successful. Wendy Mellor's objectives were achieved with a good donation. The profit went to local charity so I look forward to reporting on future events from this club.

HAZEL GROVE CMC

● When a new act name appears in the local club news guide of CMRU for the North West, I endeavour to catch their show. This was the case with T P Stubbs Bar Room Band at Hazel Grove CMC and I'm glad that I went along. They gave a smashing show. I was most impressed with their driving honky-tonk style of music and even more impressed with their self-penned material. The cynics who say that 'Brits' cannot write country music must have a change of heart (or tune) after seeing this outfit perform. Watch out for the name T P Stubbs Bar Room Band. They are hot and have every chance of getting hotter. Also in Newsfile I spotted an old name making a rare appearance in the

Stockport area, The Collier Dixon Line. They too treated the Hazel Grove crowd to a fine show.

My final visit of the month here was to see the Roger Humphries Band. Their choice of material and musicianship was right up my street. Young Melvin Duffy sat in with the band for the evening. It's rewarding to see seasoned pro's giving youngsters the chance to have a blow with their bands.

● The Buchaneer CMC meeting at The Lido, Ainsdale is Southport's latest CMC. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays it is hosted by super DJ Ian Ashcroft. It will be interesting to chart the progress of this new club and to see if Southport can support two clubs on the same night. So far my reports tell me that the established Southport FC club is still holding its Tuesday audience despite the competition.

● Don't forget all news, views and reviews to 11 Villdale Avenue, Offerton, STOCKPORT, SK2 5SQ. Tel: (061-483) 9532.



Kevin Weatherald

CLEVELAND/ SOUTH DURHAM

● ORDERS from the top, copy must be received by the beginning of the month so that 'Round Up' can be put to bed and off the presses in good time before the Easter Break so you could be reading this May issue before the week-end is underway. I hope to meet with many of you then.

● I received information recently on a forthcoming tour of the region by a young Swedish artiste Marike Johnson. Cleveland and South Durham will both be visited during

her twenty-eight day tour. Marike is one of the best known names on the country music scene in Sweden, although she is still only twenty she has had several very successful singles released, her latest being 'Turn Away' which apparently was in the top of the French charts December '83 into January. She currently has an album on release, 'Horsepower', which seems to be doing very, very well. For her UK tour starting 4 June she's to be supported by some of our own regional talent, Howard Rainer (lead guitarist with the Gibsons), Alan Anderson (drummer ex-Tony James Band).

● I was recently impressed by Hamilton's Power. Very tight musically with a first rate selection of material.

● Dorman Athletic Club (Middlesbrough) had a sell-out show for Billie Jo Spears. The same club are now to feature Joe Sun on 3 May.

● Last month saw the Silver Wedding anniversary of Cleveland's own Ken and Billie Ford so congratulations to them. This anniversary also coincided with their Silver Jubilee in entertainment. I caught up with Ken and Billie earlier in the month and they still put on a great show, constantly updating their material. Ken can be relied upon to drop in the odd comedy number and on this occasion it was a real rib tickler, 'The Three Legged Man'.

● A band who rather disappointed at one gig last month was Ohio. Their sound was far too loud and the arrangements on several of the numbers they played left me cold, 'Sylvia's Mother' in particular. It surprised me that a band who have such a great deal of ability could get up on stage and just blow it completely?

● Dillinger, the four-piece outfit from Bradford it seems are constantly getting into print in this

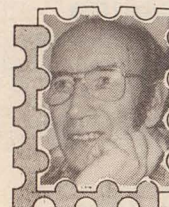
mag: I caught up with them and they got off on the wrong foot by being over an hour late arriving at the gig. However, with that hurdle cleared they proceeded to provide a good nights entertainment, going on well over the time they would have normally finished. This band's choice of material is good and they produce a very good sound but for me their stage presentation is still rather lacking, and on this gig they wasted an awful lot of time between numbers chatting about anything that took their fancy. I like humour from the stage but they could lose about 50% of the type of stuff they were using on this occasion. I hate to see any artiste smoking whilst in the middle of a set so if they leave that out along with the not brilliant harmonica playing then I'm sure their stage show will improve no end. Having written all that I must admit that they were more than warmly appreciated by this capacity crowd!

● More criticism, I managed to catch up with a regional band

Southern Comfort. I had heard extremely good reports, but I was not over impressed. The band are fairly tight and obviously have got greater capabilities than they showed here; however, their vocal harmonies, of which there were many, were a long way from blending and their choice of material was disappointed.

● On the plus side they do have a more than capable lead guitar player and 'little' Mike Vicary (ex-Mustang) on drums, again these lads can no doubt be much better if they put more thought into both material and to who should be singing what harmonies.

● I hope next month I will have rather more praise to publish but until then I still need to hear from you about any country music topic whatsoever. To get those letters off to me about forthcoming events etc. the address is 29 Oxbang Close, Lakes Estate, REDCAR, Cleveland, TS10 4ND.



Ian Whitelaw

TYNE & WEAR

● MY first call last month was The Gunfighters Club (Hedworth) where Coffee Shop were the booked entertainment, and there was no doubt that the cream in this particular infusion was their lead guitarist, who conjured up some great sounds, and his efforts alone placed this band above the ordinary.

● At the Iona Club (Hebburn) I saw the Gibsons who are in the throes of commencing their return to the circuit. Always a popular act on this region's scene, it was obvious there was a little rust about after Brian's fifteen months lay off, but it won't be long before those 'ol' hands' are back in the groove again!

● Bob McKinlay and Dixie Fried made a return trip to the Border CMC (Berwick) in double quick time. 'How come,' asks Margaret Trotter, 'Bob and the band have never been given the breaks they so thoroughly deserve?' A rave report from this showing about the pedal steel playing of the youngest generation of the Duffys.

● Keith Manifold made a welcome return to our region recently with several appearances. Among venues he appeared at was The Delta CMC. I was agreeably surprised at the attention and order given at the Gunfighters while Keith was on stage, and so was he apparently as he complimented the audience before leaving the stage. There's an old saying up here that says: 'A good artiste will get his own order.' Keith certainly fulfilled the first requirement so had no difficulty in establishing the second.

● Peter Rowan made a special appearance at the Delta CMC in a joint Delta/Alma presentation. Dave Forster, the organiser, was ecstatic about this one. Both Alma and the Delta are to be



Keith Manifold

congratulated on this imaginative booking. Unfortunately I missed out there as, on the night of that show, I was honouring a long standing promise to look at a new band. Appropriately named Country Review they were appearing at Westoe Mineworkers Club, a social club that has staged country music for about eight years

(sometimes twice weekly). My opinion of Country Review is that the sound at the moment is fairly basic with lead/rhythm guitar, bass, and drums but a 'big plus' they do have is the voice of their drummer Cliff Scurr, a recent convert from rock music. Dave Weston and Mick Watson make up the trio.

● Whiskery Dick made an appearance at the Grey Hen (South Shields). It is several months since I saw this duo, I didn't think they would get better, they could and have.

● Hamilton's Power made their customary appearance at the Iona Club. Their current lead guitarist makes light of a handicap that would defeat most musicians and his ability to overcome prompts me to put him almost on a par with the great Django Reinhardt.

● Sandi Hart warmed up for her Swiss tour and guest appearances at CMRU's Ladbroke Hotel House Party weekend with a show at the Corner House CMC (Heaton) with the Scottish band Ohio providing the backing. It proved a great

opportunity to preview two of our Easter week-end cabaret acts.

● I had caught Ohio earlier in the month and must confess their music seemed to be overlaid with some fairly heavy percussion, but on this occasion their drummer managed to have curbed his natural enthusiasm, and their opening spot gained a much higher mark from me this time.

● The entrance of Sandi Hart is always something special, the whole stage is marked out as her own territory in no uncertain manner, and her act comes over as a splendid mix of theatre and music.

● There is an explosive talent in this lady that has to find a wider outlet somewhere.

● Finally my apologies to the Rogue Band and their charming accordionist. My remarks last month were directed to the instrument not the player.



THE RIVERSIDE CMC (weekly)

Southport New Road, Banks, Nr SOUTHPORT, Merseyside

5 Tammy Sioux with Hartford West; 12 Dave McQueen and Buckskin; 19 The Red Collins Country Band plus the Rough Riders; 26 Bob McKinlay and Dixie Fried plus the Homesteaders

RUSTLERS CMC (weekly)

Little Lever Labour Club, Nr BOLTON, Lancs

4 Phoenix Express; 11 Buckskin; 18 Woodstock; 25 Coffee Shop

HAZEL GROVE CMC (weekly)

Reform Club, Napier Street, Hazel Grove, STOCKPORT

6 Ohio; 13 Wells Fargo; 20 Bev Williams & Midnight Flyer; 27 Shack Band

HIGH LANE CMC (weekly)

High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Road, High Lane, STOCKPORT, Cheshire

5 Saddletamps; 12 Pete Stanley and Brian Golbey's Bluegrass Jet Set. Tickets £2.00. 15 Randy Wade (from America) plus West Virginia. Tickets £1.50; 19 Sundown; 26 Bodie

SILVER HORSESHOE CMC

(monthly) Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Floatshall Road, Baguley, MANCHESTER 23

4 Sandi Hart and Ohio. Ticket Show —

THE WELCOME CMC (weekly)

Greyhound Hotel, East Lancs Road, LEIGH, Lancs

6 Kenny Johnson and Northwind; 13 Two of a Kind (Ireland); 20 Dave McQueen and Buckskin; 27 Val Summers and the Red Rose Band

EAST AND WEST ARDSLEY SC (weekly)

Top Common Lane, East Ardsley, Nr WAKEFIELD

6 Wilburn Duo; 13 Free Spirit; 16/17 Randy Wade and West Virginia £1.50 tickets; 20 B C & Lainey; 27 Jeannie Dee Trio

ROSSINGTON LABOUR CLUB (weekly)

Gattison Lane, Rossington, DONCASTER, South Yorkshire

7 Bob McKinlay Trio; 14 Pinkerton's Colours; 21 Bordello; 28 Dillinger

TUMBLING SHACK CMC

(approx every six weeks)

Greenfield W M C, Dunsville, DONCASTER, South Yorkshire

8 From Florida, USA, Randy Wade with West Virginia

YORK CMC (weekly)

The Winning Post Hotel, Bishopthorpe Road, YORK

3 Iona & Andy; 10 Keith Manifold; 17 Barry Richards Trio; 24 Nadine & Renegade; 31 Brian Golbey and Pete Stanley Trio, Bluegrass Jet Sets.

CROWN CMC (weekly)

The Crown, Boston Spa, Nr WETHERBY, West Yorkshire

5 Nadine & Renegade; 12 Peter Kane; 19 Kelvin Henderson; 26 Pete Ryan Band

PROSPECT CMC (fortnightly)

Prospect Hotel, HARROGATE, North Yorkshire

11 Ricki Sylva; 25 Carson Trucking Co.; 22 June: Summer Special — West Virginia and B C & Lainey

BORDER CMC (monthly)

Black & Gold Social Club, Tweedmouth, BERWICK-ON-TWEED

8 The Hillsideers

Your club could be listed here. To find out more ring Roy Edwards on (0522) 685507

ROUND THE REGIONS



Jim Duncan

WEST MIDLANDS

● THINGS went with a splash for the charity show at West Bromwich Gala baths. First snag over the chairs and tables not cleared for the concert type benches. Second snag two bands had a discussion over fees and then who was headlining the show. Finally the closing of the bar one hour earlier than the advertised time didn't help things. All in all it turned into quite a honky-tonk Saturday night by the time the last band went to perform.

● Lichfield Civic Hall got a brilliant nights show from Keith Manifold, Birmingham's Blazing Saddles and Johnny Wildwood

and friends. In my opinion Blazing Saddles on form can be matched against any touring band!

● Saw a show of very much revamped sounds from Pat Connors old 'Midwest County' playing the name game as Bakersfield.

● I note Wilf Saunders' club members have voted Tony Best (solo), Cindy and Dave (duo), Denver Spur Band took the honours.

● Peter Morrell's band headlines a good line-up for a charity show at the Woodcote Hall, Newport, in aid of Gobowan Hospital on 19 May. Sharing the billing are the Silver City Band, Sylvia and Sylva Dollar, Rio Grande, a band which after a couple of personnel changes now feels confident enough to go into recording studios and cut some self-penned racks. Try and catch 'Lady Dressed In Black'.

● Completing the bill: a new duo to the area, formerly from Yorkshire but now living in the West Midlands, is Dave and Margaret Pearson.

● Severn Valley have done the difficult thing and moved from Shropshire into the towns with a line up and style that would make a good double bill with Redditch's Shiloh.

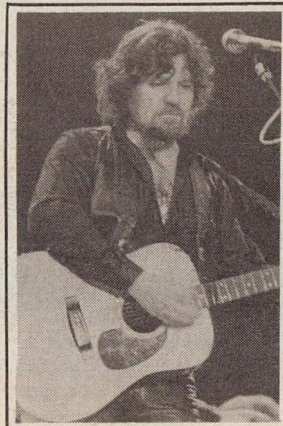
● Another new name in the Midlands, Santeé started serving his time as a solo artiste around the pubs and is now putting together a four-piece line up.

● Some go from solo to bands and some singers go back. B T Cassidy from Cannock has now parted company with his very tight outfit Goldrush. B T who now hopes to break into the national tour circuits is probably the best exponent of Ray Froggatt's songs around. Meanwhile Goldrush hope to keep all their diary dates having appointed a new head singer!

● Peter Dovey, the hard working organiser of the Red Lion (Kings Heath), a long running Monday night club, played host to (Ol' Gravel Boots) Mel Hague for an extended evening with Blazing Saddles in support. Peter is currently moving country into

'Brum' city centre for a weekly Thursday thrash at the Wrens Nest. Using Midlands circuit bands the venue appears to have taken off!

● Another long time country 'Brum' pub, the Tyburn House, features a regular Tommy Kennan night and has built into a reasonable Tuesday event, so the landlord has gone for broke and



booked Raymond Froggatt and his band in for the next month.

● (All seems at peace again in the 'Frog's camp' with the severing of ties with the local agent who was managing him!?)

● More awards, this time at the End of the Trail which is firmly settled now at Bransford Lodge (Worcs) since leaving the Farmer's Arms.

● Stu Stevens did two nights in a 'Brum' night club which really suited the 'voices' style.

● Met that very polished performer T R Dallas and the Dallas Band at the Lazyacre, Shrewsbury. T R informs he is concentrating into the country clubs to widen his appeal rather than just the Irish Centre shows.

● T R Dallas gave a classic evenings entertainment backing the numbers up to one another with three front line singers. (A very smooth show.)

● That's it — give me a ring on (0952) 583672 for a chat or write to 148 Warrensway, Woodside, TELFORD, TF7 5QF.



Peter Gwill

EAST MIDLANDS

● HAD a nice letter from that gentleman Texan, Joe Poovey this week. Joe tells me he enjoyed his recent tour of the UK with the Dave Travis band immensely and met lots of lovely people. Evidently a new album is on the way, which is being produced by Dave Travis.

● Visited the Geddling Miners Welfare to see Ray Lynam and the Hillbillies — very professional and competent, but I found them almost clinical in their approach. They have a strong leaning towards the dance band style, which filled the dance floor from their first number. Ray's voice is most pleasant without being charismatic, but I'm sure he

gained many new fans during the night. I also liked the vocal ability of the rhythm guitar player, sounding a little like Johnny Cash, he had a strength and timber in his voice that gave his singing great character. Also on the bill was Dick Edwards doing a solo spot — as usual his comedy and vocal ability were much appreciated.

● I caught a couple of acts at the Broken Barrel Western Club this month, Ken and Roger, alias Silver Wings, are a traditional country duo with pleasant voices coupled with a nice bouncy style. They seemed to cope with the bar-room atmosphere of the club very well. The second act, an old friend of mine Dick Edwards, accompanied on this occasion by a bassist. An excellent nights entertainment with Dick tailoring his act to suit this audience — the sign of a true pro — his ready wit and rich, smooth velvet voice had the fans shouting for more.

● The Hucknall and Linby Miners Welfare CMC featured the Shack Band recently fronted by Phil Lloyd, put on a most satisfying evenings entertainment. With fellow



● Peter Hook with his bride-to-be, Dolores

members of the band Bill Hayes on drums, Ken Durrans bass, and the steel of Dave Raffity. Phil presented a very diverse show. The songs of George Jones, Tompall, D.A.C. and Don Williams were well featured, whilst Willy Nelson's 'It's Not Supposed to Be That Way' and Waylon's 'Just To Satisfy You' were excellent. A good professional showing, an excess of talking between songs was my slight criticism.

● New promotions in the Kings Lynn area of Norfolk sees shows at the Norfolk College of Arts and Technology, Kings Lynn. The first show proved a great success with some 320 people in attendance for the Duffy Brothers, Warren Reeves and Clarkesburg Express, and Pinewood Country! There's a break during the summer months re-starting the second Sunday in October and continuing second Sunday in each month.

● Radio D J come country entertainer Mick Smith gained himself some good publicity recently when the booked band didn't turn up for their gig at the Broken Barrell, Woodhouse Eves. Mick stepped in at literally five minutes notice and was a resounding success. A little bird told me he also gave a good account of himself in the shoot-out... Alias Smith I presume?

● Another radio presenter and La Carte noshier extraordinaire Peter Hook has, I am told, finally taken the bait. He's been netted by Dolores and are to be married on 6 May '84. I think congratulations are in order!

PLEASE NOTE

● As from this month Peter moves in search of greener pastures, we wish him well. Taking over the East Midlands regional review is Anne Slack, a well known personality in the region. Please contact her on (077-385) 3168 with your information.



Bev Williams

NORTH EAST

● THE Hank Wangford Band are for me probably the nearest thing to this country has found in the way of an average bar room band that is the equal of the most popular form of the music in the USA. Their musical ability is second to none, and for entertainment value they probably stand head and shoulders above anybody else around! I've heard other acts described as a 'breath of fresh air', if this is true then the Hank Wangford band can be described as a gale force, carrying the music forward to wider younger appeal which is where the growing support should be coming from. Very few country bands I've seen

are capable of playing Leeds premier rock venue and entertaining a rock crowd to the pitch where the band received a standing ovation after an hour-and-a-half set. That is entertainment. Country music at its best can be seen everywhere the Hank Wangford sign goes up. The house full sign should automatically follow or you are going to miss a hell of a good night out.

● Mr Barry Clarke again staged a very successful concert at High Harrogate WMC when Shane Peters took his first singing compere assignment. The Naden Brothers have arguably the best male country singer in England in the person of Pete Naden and what a great choice of material this trio always come up with. Colorado topped the show, and 'what's new' that can be said about this fine band? Many promoters were to be seen in the audience including Lillian Smith who, after many years of running York CMC, is handing over the affairs to Ann and Mike Easton.

Certainly very many thanks must go to Lillian for all her hard work over the years and we all wish good luck to Ann and Mike with the club. Fear not York country fans, Lillian will be in attendance to keep her Godmotherly eye on things.

● Local favourite Gordon Lemondine has been setting himself up a recording deal and now hopes to have an album released within the next two to three months!

● I note Collier Dixon Line were featured heavily on BBC Radio Leeds 'Country Style', following a live recording session in the BBC studios!

● The Yellowstone Picnic Band have just re-visited the area. They were in Hull with Dixie Fried Bob McKinlay and Jean Moody, also at East Ardsley with BC and Lainey. Their good harmonies, humour plus good picking and good material all go to provide excellent entertainment.

● Harrogate Conference Centre continues its excellent record of

bringing top artistes into the region. Last month saw both Dr Hook and Charley Pride. I saw Dr Hook but passed over on Charley Pride in favour of seeing Hank Wangford.

● From reports I've had, Charley Pride pleased most people with his show. I gained the impression that interviews on our local radio programmes are limited because the scheduled times were altered so that all local media were pushed into the same short period. A bit naughty and perhaps high handed, and not the sort of treatment one expects from a superstar towards the growing media that fans rely on to obtain information from. I know one or two radio persons who were not pleased!

● Finally don't grumble to your mate if you don't like something. Tell the media, write or 'phone your local radio station and listen to it as well. Do the same with this paper and if it's printable your opinions will be heard.

● News, views etc. to 18 Powell Street, HARROGATE. 'Phone (0423) 58081

NEW CLUB

● COUNTRY MUSIC stalwart Pat Austin informs us that he's starting a new country venue which commences on Sunday 6 May and every Sunday thereafter at Doncaster Rugby League Social Club, Bentley Road, Doncaster.

To be known as the Blue & Gold CMC admission's free with B C & Lainey as resident artistes, but every five weeks there will be a change of act for one night to inject some light and shade.

Pat says: 'Three times per year (April, August, December) I intend to put on a 'Name Act'. For these shows, obviously there will be a cover of something like £1.50, but as the club can only accommodate about one hundred people, I am anticipating a nice cosy atmosphere.'



HILTON RECREATION CLUB

(weekly)

Cannock Road, Featherstone, Nr WOLVERHAMPTON, West Midlands

4 Desperado; 11 Shiloh; 18 Double Eagle; 25 Goldrush

WOLVERHAMPTON CMC

(weekly)

The Hollybush Penn Road, WOLVERHAMPTON

6 The Randy Wade Show from America with West Virginia (Tickets); 13 Tony Andrews and Raincheck; 20 Desperado; 27 Bob McKinlay and Dixie Fried

CADES COUNTY CMC (weekly)

Shireoaks M W, Shireoaks, Nr WORKSOP, Notts

4 John Lydon Duo; 11 Broken Wheel; 18 Moat Brothers; 25 B C & Lainey

COUNTRYMAN CMC (weekly)

Newtown, Nr Longnor, Nr BUXTON, Derbyshire

5 Rogue Band, Gordon Lemondine; 12 Mary Miller & Pennine Express; Ron Blythe; 19 Misty Mountain, Soloist to be confirmed; 26 Armadillo, B C & Lainey; 27 Dave Curtis; 28 Johnny Marks, Charts

LEICESTER CMC (weekly)

The Braunstone, Narborough Road, LEICESTER

2 Cherokee; 9 Manson Grant & Dynamos; 16 Burnt Ash; 23 Dillinger; 30 Indigo Lady

NEWCASTLE ARMS (weekly)

Bridgegate, RETFORD

4 Lorraine; 11 Mike & Lyndan Smith; 18 Barry Richards; 25 Big Pete Young

GOLDEN WEST CMC (weekly)

Carpenters Arms, Fenton, Nr TORKSEY, Lincs

6 Mel Hague; 13 Glenside Country Band; 20 Kelvin Henderson; 27 Dale Green & Ken

A1 CMC (monthly)

Pavilion, Matlock Bath, DERBY

TEXAS MUSIC NIGHT: 6 May '84

Joe Sun & Solar System
Roger Humphries Band
Whiskery Dick

Enquiries: Ambergate 3168

EL PASO CITY CMC (weekly)

The Spital, Spital Lane, CHESTERFIELD

7 Bill Alexander; 14 Ben Lee Rivers; 21 Johnny Marks; 28 Freightline

064 RAILWAY CMC (weekly)

64 Anlaby Road, HULL

4 Iona & Andy; 11 Southern Pride; 18 Kelvin Henderson; 25 Blue Grass Jet Set Trio

ROCK-TOP CMC (weekly)

Brimington Tavern, Manor Road, Brimington, Nr CHESTERFIELD, Derby

5 J C Owens; 12 Mike & Lynden Smith; 19 Bev Williams & Midnight Express; 26 Kathy-Ann Porter & Breakthrough

LEEDS CMC (weekly)

Astoria Centre, Roundhay Road, LEEDS 8

2 Special Show with Joe Sun & Solar System (from USA); 7 Gunfighter Competition plus live band; 14 Bev Williams & Midnight Flyer

BURNABY STREET WMC

(weekly)

Burnaby Street, SHEFFIELD 6

5 Ohio; 6 Dave Sheriff; 12 Pete Ryan Band; 13 Mel Hague; 19 Bordello; 26 Bluegrass Jet Set